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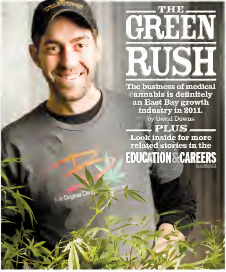

THE GREEN RUSH

The business of medical cannabis is definitely an East Bay growth industry in 2011.

by David Downs

PLUS

Look inside for more related stories in the

EDUCATION & CAREERS

SPECIAL EDITION

CULTURE SPY 11

FOOD 21

THE CRUELTY-FREE PIZZA ZONE

A vast array of whole-wheat crusted vegan pizzas sets Pizza Plaza apart.

By Anneli Rufus

Sudan is an East African country bisected by the Nile and wracked by civil wars and ethnically motivated atrocities. Pizza is a cheese-topped flatbread first enjoyed in ancient Greece. What do you get when you combine the two? In northernmost Oakland, you get Pizza Plaza, whose Sudanese owner Amin Ahmed devised a vegan menu that makes this polka-dotted hole-in-the-wall a hotspot on the international vegan grapevine drawing out-of-towners from far and wide. Even Pizza Plaza's vegetarian menu is clever and committed. Sporting eight specialty pizzas, lasagna stuffed with fake ground beef and crunchy three-bean, Caesar, spinach, and mock-chicken salads, it's expansive enough to warm the presumably plaque-free heart of your neighborhood herbivore. *Story inside*

MUSIC 48

PITCH PERFECT

Little-known jazz vocalist Stephanie Crawford is a master of melodic contour

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On the Cover *Sharp Chocolate Company founder Scott Van Rixel. Photograph by Stephen Loewinsohn.*

EAST BAY EXPRESS

Editorial
Co-Editors Robert Gammon, Kathleen Richards
Music Editor Rachel Swan
Arts Editor Nate Seltenrich
Calendar Editor Ellen Cushing
Contributors Claudia Bauer, Judy Bertholf, DeWitt Cheng, David Downs, Chris Duffey, Michelle Elbaz, Caitlin Esch, Jacob Felix Heule, Nathan Flan, Dave Gil de Rubio, Andrew Gilbert, Lee Hildebrand, John Jan, J.R. Jones, Ron Kelly, Mikey Kleiman, Stephen Loewinsohn, David MacFadden-Elliott, Matt McGrath, J. Poet, Jesse Ritter, Sonya Pavel, Anneli Rufus, Joseph Schell, Judith Schell, Jesse Victor Salinas, Jamie Soja, Matthew Stafford, Chris Thompson, Kelly Vance

Art & Production
Production Manager Michelle Wong
Graphic Designers Brian Kelly, Elaine Shaw

Circulation
Circulation Manager Clinton Fenwick

Business
Publisher Jody Colley
Business Coordinator Paige Cole
Systems Managers Janus Networks
President Jay Youngdahl

Advertising
Sales & Marketing Director Terry Furry
Retail Executives Ethan Alata, Ben Grumbergs, Justin Hams, Ramon Kavousi, Chris Mikkelsen, Maria Ortega, Sarah Woodruff
Marketing Manager Pam Godwin
Advertising Coordinator Dave Mitchell

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EAST BAY EXPRESS
10 BEST MOVIES 2010

LETTERS

Spare the Kids

There have also been an increasing number of stray goats turning up at the Oakland Animal Shelter in the past two years. Please consider whether a goat is really right for you before bringing one home.

This article also does not mention that the ONLY way a goat will produce milk is if she is pregnant, or has recently given birth (also true for cows, or humans). This raises the question of what you plan to do with a new calf each year. Those interviewed in this article clearly chose to eat their new calf. Goats can live eight to sixteen years — killing a six-month-old baby is not a "good life," any way you slice it.

You might consider almond milk, rice milk, or soy milk instead — cholesterol- and lactose-free, and no animals died to produce the milk. You can make these inexpensively at home.

Anne Martin, Oakland

[illegible] 12/29

Worst Movie of the Year

I read "10 Best Movies of 2010" by Kelly Vance (in which he raves about *True Grit* (and doesn't mention *The King's Speech*, a far superior movie).

I think your readers might appreciate an alternate view, as it might save them an admissions fee and wasting two hours.

True Grit is one of the 10 Worst Movies of 2010. One has to listen to two hours of a fake, unnatural, stilted dialogue that is spoken by every single character. Why the Coen brothers thought this might be amusing or interesting is beyond me, but I found the speech annoying and irritating.

Secondly, the talents of Matt Damon and Josh Brolin are totally wasted. Neither character is in the least bit interesting.

There is no purpose to the entire story. No point. There's no reason to tell this story. It's not about justice, it's not about revenge. No none of the characters is sympathetic or appealing. One is a self-described fat, drunken, one-eyed, demi-criminal that enjoys killing people and kicking Indian children, and the young girl is a self-righteous blood-thirsty prig.

I found nothing in the movie that was funny, scary, exciting, sad, interesting, or joyful, just boring.

David Weisman, Berkeley

[illegible] Hoves 12/29

Truth About Grit

I can overlook a couple of the factual errors in this piece, though a couple bear mention. The pious townspeople Vance cites are not residents of Yell County: that's where Hattie hails from, and it's where the bodies of her father (and later, Cogburn) go, but we never see the place onscreen. Likewise, Chaney as the "head bad guy" only in that he's the primary antagonist of the film; the man nominally in charge of his gang is Lucky Ned.

But anyone in possession of even a thirty-year-old film reference (and I would hope Katz' The Film Encyclopedia sits on every professional reviewer's shelf) should be able to confirm that True Grit was not John Wayne's next to last movie. He made ten more films (eleven if one includes his cameo in Cancel My Reservation), with Rooster Cogburn, the sequel to True Grit, being the penultimate appearance. As you were.

Thor Klippert, Berkeley

Kelly Vance Responds

The Yell County reference is to Mattie's people in general, not strictly a factual error. The Chaney reference is open to interpretation; again, not a factual error, just an opinion. And we made the correction about John Wayne in last week's letters section.

[illegible]

Bonds Aren't Free Money

The fundamental issue in the dispute over Berkeley's Measure FF branch library bonds is that the Board of Library Trustees (BOLT) is attempting to use bond money for an unauthorized purpose — completely demolishing two of Berkeley's four branch libraries and constructing new buildings instead.

Measure FF, approved in 2008 by Berke-

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ley voters, did not propose demolition and/or new construction. Instead, it was specifically and solely intended to "renovate, expand, and make seismic and access improvements at four neighborhood branch libraries."

The library leadership now appears to be arguing that either it has had a change of heart, or that it really intended all along to demolish and rebuild half the branches.

If that is the case, the measure could have easily been written to include "demolish," "rebuild," "replace," or similar terminology.

It wasn't, and probably for good reason. If Berkeley voters had been told the library would have leeway to demolish cherished branch buildings, it's quite possible Measure FF wouldn't have passed.

The Board of Library Trustees chose to make the chances of passage better by excluding demolition and new buildings from both the bond measure wording and the campaign for the bonds.

A bond measure isn't a no-strings-attached gift to the city. It is a contract with the voters. We authorize increasing taxes, in exchange for the promise that those taxes will be used for a specific purpose.

If the recipient of the money can later change the purpose without consequences, as BOLT is attempting to do, then no bond measure wording really means anything. That is the key issue at stake in the lawsuit against the Berkeley Public Library.

Steven Finacom, Berkeley

Law? News 12/22

Slippery Slope

Does anyone think youth tempted by the rewards of burglary are any less savvy than graffiti vandals? City Hall has made Oakland an experiment in how few police you can have before daily life becomes totally unlivable.

Charles Pine, Oakland

News 12/22

We Need Balls

This article doesn't go into detail about Reverend Roger Christie, but here's what I do know: he is the founder of the THC Ministry, inspired by Chris Bennett's writings that cannabis was the main ingredient in the Holy Anointing Oil recipe from Exodus 30:23. Roger continues to be held without bail, now for six months. Could it be that Roger was dispensing suppressed information along with the holy sacraments? Why is he held without bail for two pounds of herb? What was he doing with the cannabis? Was he in fact duplicating the recipe from *Exodus*? The *truth* will have a very bright light shining on it when/IF he goes to trial in April 2011. Cannabis in the Holy anointing oil? Yes, of course. It makes perfect sense and resonates as *the truth*. Many folks who have been to the THC Ministry and have discovered the *truth* have burst into tears of joy upon this revelation. I can tell you that this knowledge transformed and lit me on fire for Cannabis Liberation. The more I know, the more inflamed I become. Yes, Roger Christie is dangerous — to the DEA and the US government, certainly not the thousands he helped and enlightened. There is *no justice* in this nation unless *we the people grow some* big ass balls and get our lazy stoned butts off the sofa and out in the streets fighting for our *God* and constitutional rights. Once you know the *truth* about cannabis then you too can be a danger to the government. We need millions of dangerous citizens to take back *our great plant*. There is a reason the Chinese once called it Tai Ma — it means literally — *great plant*!

Hokuleani Chatmouse, Hilo, Hawaii

Will You Attack Lincoln, Too?

In your Christmas issue, new Co-Editor Robert Gammon flails the tired cudgel of "Bush tax cuts for the rich."

Let's admit, briefly, that 40 percent of our country's tax revenues are already being confiscated from only 1 percent of taxpayers. Let's also recognize the 2009 Harvard study reviewing 37 years of results from developed nations worldwide, showing that tax cuts increase economic growth.

Now, we can recognize that Mr. Gammon has a First Amendment right to get a wedgie whenever a war-mongering Republican president does something for the nation's good.

I look forward to reading articles about the Lincoln disenslavement laws.

David Altschul, J.D., Berkeley

12/22

Daytime Benefits

I read with great interest Steve Tabor's well thought-out letter. However, may I point out that the strength of sunlight-generated electricity is that it only works in the daytime.

The electricity generated from the San Luis dam also works fine in the daytime. But when the sun goes down, the unneeded electricity generated at night is used to pump the water from the fore bay back up into the main reservoir so that the water can be used again tomorrow to generate electricity in the daytime — when it is needed.

Daytime electricity has great value. Nighttime electricity has only some value.

Thanks for your good works.

King O'Neal, Oakland

News 12/22

How About Horses?

AC Transit diesel buses on blocks as shown on the cover of the December 22 issue are because of California EPA enforcement of the California AB 32 edict to replace or filter diesel engines.

Bus-size engine filters to capture and clean CO2 are at a cost likely to run from $5,000 to $90,000, not to mention the cost of expensive EPA-compliance engine replacement. Obviously bus service will suffer.

Not to worry. Environmentally clean mass transit will return. An alternative is the tried-and-true, clean non-petroleum, teamster-operated horse and buggy.

The Bureau of Land Management has an overpopulation of cheap, low-maintenance, and easy-to-fuel horses.

A by-product will be chemical-free fertilizer. It is all a win-win.

Predicted PG&E brownouts will force electric cars to mount solar panels and windmills and that's okay, because the environment is more important than us carbon-based life forms.

Phil Tribuzio, Alameda

Happy to Have Vics Back

So glad to hear it is back! My first experience with Trader Vic's was back in Honolulu. Loved the place but it closed in the late-Sixties and the property became a multi-story condo building. Recently have been going to the Tonga Room for my annual "Tiki Fix" but now I shall try Vics once again. I wish them good fortune!!

Michael Kirch, Laverne, CA

[illegible] Culture Spy

We're Not Obsessives

As a comic book aficionado, I read Rachel Swan's article about Comic Relief with great interest. She obviously did her homework in recounting the store's history, as well as providing hints about its dicey future.

But just once, I'd like to read an article about comic books that doesn't fall back on tired old stereotypes. In her piece, Swan tells us, "Comics depend on fanaticism," and "They're for the obsessives." As if there's something strange about wanting to read every issue. Look, comics are a form of entertainment like any other. They come in serialized installments, just like TV shows, or for that matter, weekly newspapers like the *Express*. Stories tend to unfold over multi-issue arcs, with each issue comprising a single chapter. Let's say you picked up a copy of *Great Expectations*. Wouldn't you be upset if you found that chapter three was missing? Would that make you an obsessive fanatic? (It's probably worth mentioning that most of Dickens' novels were originally serialized in monthly magazines.)

And just because there are fewer comic book fans than, say, football fans, is no reason to diss them as "hard-core geeks" or their interest as "something frivolous." How about using those skills you learned in journalism school to come up with some creative new angle instead of trying to marginalize those who happen to like a different form of entertainment than you do?

Oh, and by the way, it's not actually true that "You can't really read a comic strip on a Kindle or online." Marvel, DC, and Archie offer digital comics on their web sites, and Marvel and DC have iPhone/iPad apps.

Jim Davidson, Berkeley

You Missed It

I have to say that a number of things that Chris Jarrett said during his interview (which I overheard in large part, having been in the store at the time) were quite clearly misunderstood and used to illustrate points to which they do not apply.

As an example, his description of the decline in sales of the standard-format comic in favor of trade paperback and hardcover collections is used by the writer as a reason for the store's trouble, when in fact Comic Relief's very identity is tied up in marketing comics in book format. The store's full name is "Comic Relief the Comic Bookstore," not "the Comic Book Store." Get the difference? You quoted that, but missed its import. Comics as books. Comics in book format — it's what Comic Relief does.

James Priel, Oakland

Why IDs Matter

The purpose of increasing cooperation of individuals with Oakland Police seems quite clear to me. Whether or not some crooks leave their ID at the scene of the crime, the individuals who need to be encouraged to cooperate are: (1) Victims. Fear of being treated like a suspect makes anyone afraid to report a crime. (2) Witnesses. Many witnesses will not speak out again because of fear. (3) Bystanders. Maybe not actual witnesses, but they saw something that might be helpful, such the license plate of a car fleeing the scene. Without ID, they have to protect themselves rather than help the police and the victims. Many people, especially immigrants, are quite afraid of the police. Other people, such as homeless, may be less fearful, but in the homeless life, ID is one of the earliest things lost or stolen, and one of the hardest to replace. Without ID, many services are closed to someone in need. Since the rumor is that Homeland Security is going to start requiring two forms of government-issued ID in 2011, even Mr. Nasoji's Town of Moraga may find it needs to issue municipal ID so its residents can cash a check or use a credit card.

I would prefer that we live in the trusting times of the 1930s and 1940s, when there was almost no requirement for ID except as proof of age to collect Social Security, but this is seventy or eighty years later.

Theodora Knight, Berkeley

[illegible]

Psychological Problems?

I liked Mintz's article on the student loan issue. One thing I thought was lacking is that it seems like many of the debtors seem to need some help in learning how to manage their lives, courageously facing their current situation and fears and working through personal issues. It would have been good to have mentioned sources for help to do damage control and solution seeking, instead of showing and perpetuating a kind of victimization.

The issue may be bigger than predatory lending, and deal with psychological factors. McCarthy and Warner's fears are bigger than their debt, as he can't even bear to look at the amount he owes and she talks about how "they're going to come get me." It may be more productive for them to try and find solutions instead of continuing to live in such utter fear and continuing to play the victim. There are groups that support that, and it would have been cool to have seen some mentions of these as places for people to go. I think people like Warner and McCarthy may benefit from support groups like debtors anonymous or others.

Luke Macaulay, Berkeley

Corrections

In the 12/22 news story "The Electromagnetic Menace," we stated that the El Cerrito City Council had withdrawn its approval of a proposed cell phone tower at Camp Herms. In fact, the city has neither approved nor denied T-Mobile's application. ●

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SEVEN DAYS

QUAN GETS SERIOUS WITH BUDGET

Oakland's new mayor ousts two top budget officials. Jerry Brown appoints two with ties to the prison guards' union.

By Robert Gammon

Jean Quan appears to be bringing the same sort of urgency and seriousness to the Oakland mayor's office as she brought to the campaign. In her first full day on the job, she ousted the city's two top budget officials and replaced one of them. Assistant City Administrator Marianna Marysheva left the city effective Friday, as did city Budget Director Cheryl Taylor. Quan, who has vowed to deliver a balanced city budget by the end of March, appointed Sabrina Landreth, an analyst in the budget office, to replace Taylor. Landreth also was a budget analyst for the city council's finance committee when Quan was the chairwoman.

By the end of the week, the new mayor also had announced the return of community policing officers to specific beats, the *Oakland Tribune* reported. The move was made possible by voter approval of **Measure BB**, the so-called **Measure Y** fix. The police department had transferred community policing officers to other duties in July after Measure Y was suspended following the layoff of eighty cops.

However, Quan still has her work cut out for her with the **Oakland Police Officers Association**. Early in the week, the new mayor attended early morning roll call with the police rank-and-file. But then union leadership criticized her for not taking questions. Union leaders apparently have yet to get over the fact that Quan beat their favored candidate, ex-state Senator **Don Perata**. They also still don't want to contribute 9 percent to their pensions like all other city employees do.

Brown and Prison Guards

Governor **Jerry Brown**, meanwhile, appeared to hit the ground running, too, but then raised some eyebrows when announcing several cabinet appointees, including two Oakland residents with ties to the California prison guards' union, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Contra Costa Times* reported. Brown selected **Marty Morgenstern** as his labor secretary. Morgenstern negotiated lucrative compensation packages for the **California Correctional Peace Officers Association** while working for ex-Governor **Gray Davis**. Brown also chose **Ronald Yank** as his personnel director. Yank, a veteran labor lawyer, used to represent the prison guards' union.

Brown also appointed his wife **Anne Gust Brown** to be his unpaid "special counsel." He also appointed PG&E exec **Nancy McFadden** to be one of his "executive secretaries." According to the *Chron*, McFadden was the brains behind last year's controversial **Proposition 16**, a statewide measure that tried to block cities and counties from increasing renewable energy use. Brown also chose **Gil Duran** to be his press secretary. Duran served in that capacity when Brown was mayor of Oakland.

Brown also announced that California will no longer have a secretary of education under his administration, the *Chron* reported. Brown eliminated the cabinet level position in a cost-cutting move. The secretary of education post has long been viewed as redundant because the state also has the elected position of state superintendent of schools. Longtime Democratic legislator **Tom Torlakson** of the East Bay was elected state superintendent in November.

And finally, Brown unveiled his budget plan earlier this week, which calls for deep cuts in higher education and the elimination of redevelopment agencies throughout the state. Ironically, the *Sacramento Bee* reported that the Sacramento loft that Brown and his wife are renting was built with redevelopment funds.

San Jose and the A's

In their ongoing efforts to snatch the **Oakland A's**, San Jose officials announced that the city's redevelopment agency will sell five pieces of land to raise cash for a new ballpark, the *San Jose Mercury News* reported. San Jose plans to use the $25 million in land-sale proceeds to buy two remaining parcels needed for the stadium. The city's redevelopment agency also needs the cash because it has financial problems. However, city officials also acknowledged that the governor's plan to eliminate redevelopment agencies would throw a wrench into their ballpark plans. Brown's proposal would snuff out Oakland's plans for a new A's stadium, too.

Berkeley Pool Choked with Mud

The City of Berkeley filled in **Willard Pool** with mud last week. "It wasn't safe to leave it" as it was, said city spokeswoman **Mary Kay Clunies-Ross**. "The pool was in such bad shape it would have to be re-done." The city closed the pool in June after **Measure C** failed to garner the necessary two-thirds voter approval.

George Beier, president of the **Willard Neighborhood Association**, said refurbishing the pool could be affordable if the city did the work in stages. "But now I think the pool is closed forever," he said. "It's a tragedy for the neighborhood."

Three-Dot Roundup

In the latest Oakland gang injunction case, an Alameda County judge indicated last week that he agrees with Oakland City Attorney **John Russo** that the law firm **Siegel and Yee** should be disqualified because of conflicts of interest. Councilwoman **Jane Brunner** is a partner in the firm. . . . **Proposition 8** is headed back to the **California Supreme Court** after a federal appellate panel requested help in determining whether anti-gay marriage forces have a legal right to defend the measure. . . . The **Marin County Board of Supervisors** approved a one-year ban on **SmartMeters**, but it was not clear whether PG&E would honor the moratorium. . . . And the **San Francisco 49ers** won the **Jim Harbaugh** sweepstakes, signing the successful **Stanford University** coach to a five-year, $25 million deal. ●

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Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510

LEGALIZATION NATION

NEW LEGALIZATION EFFORT STARTS

Humboldt grapples with its biggest industry. LA dispensaries win in court.

By David Downs

Here we go again. **Oaksterdam** founder and **Proposition 19** creator **Richard Lee** said late last week that he's part of a new group to legalize cannabis in 2012 in California called **California Cannabis Policy Reform**. The group recently met at 1776 Broadway in Oakland, the headquarters for Prop 19, the failed November 2 legalization initiative that became one of the most-watched political competitions in the cycle.

Attendees at the first meeting included Lee, **California NAACP** President **Alice Huffman**, **UFCW** organizer **Dan Rush**, and **Ethan Nadelman**, executive director of the **Drug Policy Alliance**, which is funded by billionaire philanthropist **George Soros**. **Law Enforcement Against Prohibition** also attended the meeting via conference call. The group reviewed polling done in September, October, and November. "We went over what went wrong, what went right, and what we need to do to win," said Lee.

The group is setting itself up as a tax-exempt, nonprofit 501(c)4 corporation for fund raising, and so will not have to disclose donors. The group also begins with a coalition and funding that only emerged by the end of the Prop 19 battle, including the presence of minority leadership, union leadership, and deep pockets.

The group meets again this week, said Lee, a relatively shy entrepreneur who said he'll try to "take a backseat" in the next election cycle, after being thrust into the spotlight last time. Prop 19 spokespeople **Jeff Jones** and **Dale Jones** will act as spokespeople.

The new group faces an uphill battle in crafting an initiative that can garner majority support. A significant minority of Californians are diametrically opposed to any legalization. Only 4 percent of likely voters favor so-called "full legalization" with little to no use restrictions and taxation. The "stoners against legalization," which included weed dispensaries in Los Angeles/Sacramento and San Francisco, set an unexpected backfire on Prop 19's line in 2010. Prop 19 lost 46-54. "Of course it's an issue. You need to get as many people as possible, but it's impossible to get everybody, right?" Lee said.

In related news, **California NORML** hosts the "Marijuana Reform: Next Steps for California" conference on Saturday, January 29, at the David Brower Center in Berkeley.

Hippies and Rednecks Unite!

Some fifteen years after Californians okayed medical cannabis, one of the pot-growing capitals of the world, Humboldt County, is finally grappling with how to regulate what is largely regarded as its number one economic engine. The **Humboldt County Planning Commission** drew vicious snarls of discontent from rural growers January 7 by debating a new "Marijuana Land Use" ordinance that critics say is unworkable.

Humboldt Medical Marijuana Advisory Panel spokesperson **Charley Custer** said the planning commission took no action, but he expects to have an ordinance on the books by this time next year. Parts of the ordinance drawing ire include a preposterous "no odor" rule for rural outdoor farms, and strict environmental rules on diesel use, water withdrawals, effluent, and housing codes. Such environmental mandates seem hypocritical given the level of impact from local vineyards, ranches, dairies, and the once-mighty timber industry, critics say.

For example, the proposed rules say there shall be no edibles in Humboldt County, Custer said. "What does that have to do with encouraging industrial growth through proper regulation? They are eagerly quashing modes of economic development."

Custer said the draft rules are copied from urban codes designed to crush indoor pot farming in Arcata. But such municipal regulations are unworkable in rural areas, where rednecks and hippies alike bristle at government involvement. "It's widely observed that county building codes end 500 feet from the road," said Custer.

The issue of regulating pot is being swept into a macro-narrative of "city versus rural" that predates pot's presence in Humboldt, he said. Growers have privately called the draft ordinance "bullshit" and "a continuing attempt to punish and control hippies."

"There's always been deep cultural division among progressives in Humboldt, between the urban leather-patch-on-the-elbows types and the feral hippies in the hills," Custer added.

Unlike in pot stronghold Oakland, industry leaders don't participate financially in county politics. "Pot people express their will in sheer numbers, like a flash mob at the courthouse with hundreds of people waving pitchforks," Custer said. They inherently resent the "pay-to-play" system of government, and consequently county planning staff is not on their side. Pot farmers are just now learning to flex their political muscles via donations, Custer said.

The Humboldt Medical Marijuana Advisory Panel holds meetings on the draft ordinance this week, Custer said.

Seeds and Stems

Berkeley joined Oakland in halting its process for permitting large-scale indoor pot farms, citing concerns the farms would violate not only federal law but state law, and expose city leaders to criminal prosecution. The *Berkeley Voice* reported last week that Mayor **Tom Bates** had suspended the city's plans and will rework the permits, then seek state and federal approval for them. At issue is a required strong connection between patient, grower, and collective. ... Dispensaries remained open in Los Angeles this week after a superior court judge declined to lift an injunction that prevents city officials from shutting down pot clubs. The city established illegal regulations on the clubs in 2010, drawing numerous lawsuits. In December, Mohr ruled sections of LA's ordinance unconstitutional and ordered the city to change them. The city is working to amend its ordinance while asking a state appellate court to lift Mohr's injunction, the *Los Angeles Times* reported. ●

David.Downs@gmail.com

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This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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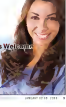

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Berkeley Bowl workers will have another chance to support the union in March. Judith Scherr

BERKELEY BOWL UNION GETS OFF THE MAT

After losing a tough decertification fight last year, the grocer's union filed labor charges with the feds and won the right to a new election.

By Judith Scherr

The grocer's union at **Berkeley Bowl** appeared to be knocked out cold seven months ago. Workers at the foodie mecca voted 99-74 in June to decertify the **United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 5** — after six years as the official union of record at the store on Oregon Street. But it turns out that management won the election battle by using some underhanded tactics. And so the New Year has rung in a new round in the fight to retain the union at the Bowl.

Shortly after the June election, the grocer's union filed forty charges of unfair labor practices with the **National Labor Relations Board**, including allegations that supervisors spied on and intimidated union activists. On December 29, the NLRB published an agreement with Bowl management that requires a re-run of the election. "The election conducted on June 23, 2010 was set aside by mutual agreement of the parties based upon alleged objectionable conduct of the employer that interfered with the employees' exercise of a free and reasoned choice," the agreement stated.

Union shop steward **James Livingston**, a Bowl employee, said he wasn't surprised that workers would get a new shot at supporting the union, given the nature of management's interference in the elections. "Security was following the reps around the store, standing three feet away; managers were on the floor constantly," even though they usually preferred to stay in their offices, Livingston said.

The NLRB concurred with four of the grievances filed by the union and is considering others, he said. He also said the NLRB agreement will help provide a level playing field during the coming campaign. "Their hands are pretty tied now," he said, referring to stipulations in a notice which the NLRB-Bowl agreement says must be posted inside the store.

The notice says, in part: "We will not assign you more onerous work or isolate you from your co-workers because of your support for [the union]; we will not create the impression that we are spying on you by monitoring your union activity during non-working time, in non-working areas, including the Cafe-Deli break area. ... We will not tell you that you cannot distribute union flyers inside the store ...."

Once the objection to the election was filed with the NLRB, union activities were able to continue as before, Livingston said. That included the reinstatement of an employee the company wanted to fire because she was working on restricted duty due to an injury. "I think the employees [who opposed the union] are waking up," Livingston said.

He added that the union will once again seek the help of the community as it did during the lead-up to the June decertification election. Livingston said the community was sensitive to the "very un-Berkeley union tactic" of management, which hired the head of the **Oregon Republican Party** labor consultant **Bob Tiernan**, to run the decertification campaign.

Berkeley Bowl management is keeping a low profile, declining to talk to the press about the NLRB decision. According to Livingston, store management released a memo to workers stating it would comply with whatever the majority of the employees want. **Jason Lee**, the employee who helped organize the decertification election and throw out the union, also declined to comment.

Although it's loved by East Bay progressives and liberals because of its organic and natural foods, Berkeley Bowl has a long history of union fights. The employees unionized under the UFCW in the late-1970s, but voted to decertify in 1986 when, according to UFCW spokesperson **Mike Henneberry**, the workforce of 24 was made up mostly of the owners' relatives. Then in 2003, the workers voted not to unionize, but the NLRB found the vote so riddled with problems, it imposed the union in 2004.

In Berkeley, employees at **Safeway** and **Andronico's** belong to UFCW. **Whole Foods, Trader Joe's**, and **Berkeley Bowl West** are non-union. UFCW is currently mounting a union drive at **BevMo!**, which has stores in Albany, Emeryville, and Oakland.

The re-run of the Berkeley Bowl union election is tentatively set for March 23. ●

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Editor@EastBayExpress.com

ARTS & CULTURE

The PITS and the Warthogs square off

Jamie Soja

CULTURE SPY

WARTHOGS FOR LIFE

In Oakland, rugby builds character. It might even save lives.

By Rachel Swan

On a frigid night in January, two high school rugby teams faced off at **Witter Field** in Piedmont. The **Piedmont International Touring Side (PITS)** wore crisp blue and white uniforms representing a 33-year-old lineage of rugby greatness. The **Warthogs**, who hailed from neighboring Oakland, wore black and white. Colors were just one way of distinguishing between the two teams, one entrenched and well-resourced, the other struggling to establish itself. The PITS tours the world every year, usually traveling to Canada and sometimes going as far as England or Ireland. The Warthogs are still looking for a home field — right now they practice in the baseball diamond at Brookdale Field in East Oakland. At this game, PITS's players, including subs, outnumbered the Warthogs by a ratio of 2 to 1.

The social-class allegory wasn't lost on **Mike Sagehorn**, who used to coach rugby at **Oakland Military Institute**. "What you have is kids who live in the hills playing against kids who live in the flats," Sagehorn said.

Judging from the intense, pointed looks of spectators, many would probably concur. The teams divided their scrimmage into four twenty-minute quarters, as opposed to the forty-minute halves that comprise a normal rugby game. The first two quarters unfolded as one might expect: Piedmont scored two tries (the equivalent of a goal), beating their opponent by a formidable fourteen points. Sagehorn watched from the sidelines. "They're quiet," he said. "When boys are quiet, it means they're nervous."

By 8 p.m., the Warthogs, who had only one sub, looked bushed. Coaches **Mike Spencer**, **Soni Tuponata**, and **Ryan Burke** gathered their team for a huddle. "We need to knock off the swearing," Burke said. "We're here, and we're representing Oakland. Now I haven't always been the best example," he continued, as a couple players smiled knowingly. "But if you need to swear, do it in your mind, or do it under your breath."

Team captain **Olosetti Fifita** cut in. "Man, when the referee calls a penalty, don't sit there and cry about it," he said. The players nodded. Spencer offered bits of strategic advice. "Remember your stone wall," he told the players. "We should have two guys evenly spaced. Keep your defense up."

Apparently, the players took those suggestions to heart. In the next quarter they put up a stout offensive line against the PITS's "freshsoph" team (which consisted of Piedmont's younger, less experienced players). Flyhalf **Tuimisi Palu** threw a couple of fake passes and then made a fast break to score a try. A few minutes later Fifita scored after stealing the ball and sprinting downfield. Burke beamed. "Get ready!" he shouted as a PITS player punted back.

After three hours of nearly continuous play, the teams decided to call it a night. Spencer said they hadn't really kept score. The whole idea was to have a friendly scrimmage to prepare the kids for their 2011 season. In that sense, it was a roaring success. "Great match on Saturday night in Piedmont between the Warthogs and Piedmont International Touring Side (PITS Rugby)," Spencer wrote in a blog post the following day. "Perhaps some stereotypes were broken — they aren't rich snots and we aren't ghetto thugs. About 50 kids played a hard match, tackled each other, had bloody noses, made exciting bursts, released aggression, shook hands and then had burgers together. Coaches from the teams later joined for a couple beers and some food."

Spencer and the other coaches enjoy looking at rugby from a utopian angle. It helps teach sportsmanship, build character, and melt class divisions, they say. On Saturday, kids played through injuries — one of the PITS players had two wads of toilet paper sticking from his nostrils to help stop what was obviously a severe bloody nose. Kids were told to treat each other respectfully, to heed the referee, and to stop swearing. Supposedly, PITS coach **John Cullom** makes his whole team do push-ups if one person uses foul language (including the expression "My bad," which Cullom finds distasteful). In short, it's not just about playing rugby, said Sagehorn. It's about preparing high school kids for the real world.

But it's still hard to ignore the rift between the PITS and the Warthogs, whose players obviously come from different walks of life. Driving five of his players home that night, Spencer passed a crime scene at the 5800 hundred block of Bancroft Avenue in East Oakland. Fifteen-year-old **Lovell Hudnot** had been fatally shot while crossing a parking lot, around the same time the Warthogs were warming up. "What was weird was that we treated this as just another landscape, call it 'Yellow Crime Scene Tape at Night,'" Spencer wrote in his blog. "I think the boys and I made a casual remark like 'Oh, someone got shot.'"

Spencer, who works by day as a private investigator, has seen his fair share of yellow-tape homicides in Oakland. He's particularly shaken when the victims fit roughly the same profile as the kids on his rugby team. Hudnot was one such person — a student at **Fremont High School** who was about their age and grew up in the same neighborhood. "It's just that our program gives kids something positive to do so they hopefully don't meet the same fate," he wrote.

And the Warthogs players certainly aren't inured to what's happening all around them, Spencer pointed out. For many of them, violent crime is a familiar part of life. They've learned to shrug it off. They're encouraged to vent their frustrations on the field.

For many of them, rugby provides a useful outlet. Some keep playing for years. Fifita, who attends **Castlemont High School** in East Oakland, says he actually started playing in seventh grade. He loves the camaraderie. So does **Jose Peña**, who came to rugby as a sophomore at **American Indian Public Charter School** and went on to play for Cal. His brother Eric is the Warthogs' current scrum half (which is similar to a quarterback in football). For some people, it's become a family tradition.

Twelfth grader **Mafoa Tongauiha**, who serves as an offensive forward (or "prop"), hews to Spencer's philosophy of rugby-as-therapy. "I just got my anger out on the field," he told Burke after the game on Saturday. "I pretended it was war." He grinned as the coach looked back quizzically. "Ha ha. Just playin'." ●

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Michael Sturtz

Passing the Torch

After twelve years at the helm of The Crucible Michael Sturtz gets a fond farewell

When **Michael Sturtz** founded **The Crucible** (1260 7th St., Oakland) twelve years ago, one could've written it off as a flight of fancy. An institute-trained sculptor and welder, Sturtz wanted to create a space for the community to come together and produce industrial art. But industrial art as recreational practice was a long way off, and thus being years before Art Murmur and the gallery explosion of the mid-2000s, the local arts community was diffuse and largely stagnant. Finding funding for a nonprofit organization of any kind was (and is) notoriously arduous, let alone for one whose mission was to focus essentially on placing blowtorches and soldering irons in the hands of laypeople. "There wasn't anything like the Crucible then," Sturtz recalled. "Letting everyday people have access to the industrial arts was sort of unheard of."

But Sturtz gathered a group of friends, secured a $1,750 grant through a high-school acquaintance who was well-connected in the nonprofit world, and loaned the fledgling organization the rest of the capital it needed by dipping into the remains of a settlement he'd received in a motorcycle accident. Twelve years ago this week, The Crucible opened in a 6,000-square-foot rented warehouse in South Berkeley.

Today the organization boasts a faculty and staff of nearly one hundred people, offers a full slate of classes for kids and adults annually, puts on a number of wildly popular fund-raising variety shows each year, and occupies a sprawling 56,000-square-foot warehouse in West Oakland. What might have looked like a pipe dream in the late-Nineties has become the largest industrial arts nonprofit in the country — and Sturtz is ready to step down. "I want The Crucible to soar," he said. "And at a certain point that means without me in charge of it." In the face of a struggling arts economy, the organization can't afford to sustain his position, and instead of cutting programs, Sturtz has decided to leave. The move is something he's been thinking about for awhile, he said, and he's looking forward to having time "to make art that's not stamped with the Crucible logo on the side" — to be part of, rather than a leader in, the East Bay's industrial arts community. "I've been holding the portal open for a lot of people to get in, but haven't gotten a chance to get in myself," he said.

To celebrate Sturtz and his legacy, The Crucible's annual fund-raising variety show **"Crucible Revival: Keep the Fire Burning,"** will be held in his honor. According to Sturtz, the show — which combines music, art, opera, dance, aerial arts, and lots of fire — will be something of a greatest hits compilation of the last decade's shows. From the looks of it, it'll also bear the unbridled enthusiasm for spectacle that Sturtz made a trademark of the Crucible's performances. "It's very hard for us to do a simple, small show," he said. "It always ends up getting over the top. It's hard to stop." Friday and Saturday, January 14-15, 7 p.m., $55-$65. 510-444-0919 or TheCrucible.org.

— Ellen Cushing

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ATTRACTIONS

Martin Luther King, Jr. 24 Goodies at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach With themed events and special games all weekend long, in addition to Playland's standard offerings. Sat. 15-17. $10-$15. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. PlaylandNotattheBeach.org.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

Art for Opportunity A benefit for Opportunity Junction, which provides job training to low-income adults, featuring a live art auction, a raffle, wine, and food. To buy tickets, visit OpportunityJunction.org. Thu., Jan. 13, 6 p.m., $40. Historical Society Museum, 1500 W. Fourth Street, Antioch.

Commit to Serve Expo Learn about local volunteer opportunities. Mon., Jan. 17, 9 a.m.-noon, free. Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-524-9283.

"The Flea!" Vintage and Gift Fair With over forty vendors selling jewelry, collectible items, furniture, garden goods, [illegible] clothing, toys, and more. Sat., Jan. 15, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., free. Jack London Gateway Plaza, 330 Market St., Oakland.

Brazilian Grand Thank you Oakland With panel discussions on "Service in [illegible] and Oakland" and "Democracy and the [illegible] of Cuban [illegible]," live music by [illegible] and Grupo [illegible], and a screening of a clip from the film *Will the Real Terrorist Please Stand Up?* Sat., Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m., $10-$15 sliding scale. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Grove Shafter Dog Park Grand Opening Celebration for the newly-completed park project, with members of the Longfellow Community Association and District 1 councilmember Jane Brunner. Sat., Jan. 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Grove Shafter Park, [illegible] Martin Luther King Jr., Oakland.

Reception and Book Release Party for Celebrate People's History Party celebrating the newly released collection of poster art, with over fifty works on display. Sat., Jan. 15, 3:30-5 p.m., free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

GLBT

East Bay Bi-Friendly Meeting Look for the "Bi-Friendly" sign. ebr-BiFriendly.org. Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m., free. Au Coquelet Cafe, 2000 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-0433.

KIDS

Coyote [illegible] [illegible] a friendly meet introducing kids 3-5 to the natural world in a hands-on way. Registration required; space is limited. Third Sunday of every month, 10-11:30 a.m. & 2:30-4 p.m., residents $6, nonresidents $8. Coyote Hills Regional Park, 8000 Patterson Ranch Rd., Fremont. 510-795-9385. EBParks.org.

East Side Teen Anime Club Opportunity for teens to watch anime films and discuss graphic novels. Second Wednesday of every month, 3-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728. OaklandLibrary.org.

Kerry's Kids: Harrison House A mobile health van offers free doctor-provided [illegible] health education, [illegible] checkups, blood pressure checks, and Head Start screenings [illegible]. Onsite physicians are Eddie Chu and Karen Krager. Please bring your child's yellow immunization card. Third Tuesday of every month, 5:30-7 p.m., 510-444-[illegible]. Harrison House, 711 Harrison St., Berkeley. 510-525-0843.

Oakland Mic Youth Speaks presents a monthly under-21 open mic hosted by [illegible] Clay and [illegible] and featuring [illegible]. Second Friday of every month, 7 p.m., free. 415-255-9035. YouthSpeaks.org. Oakland Art Gallery, 199 Kahn's Alley, Oakland. 510-637-0389. OaklandArtGallery.org.

PICKS

Harlem Globetrotters

When the **Harlem Globetrotters** announced this fall that they'd dramatically changed the game and implemented what their press release breathlessly called "basketball's first-ever four-point shot," it may have appeared odd or even slightly blasphemous to the purists. But it certainly wasn't surprising to any fan of the exhibition basketball team. The Globetrotters, after all, have built a reputation on making theater out of basketball, even if that means subverting the game's rules every now and again. The decades-old 'Trotters traffic in high-drama stunts and slapstick showmanship while still managing to shoot and score like NBA players, and as a result make up what must be the only professional sports team that's intentionally funny. See for yourself as they take on the **Washington Generals** at the **Oracle Arena** (7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland) on Saturday, Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 16, at 2 p.m. $16.25-$104.75. HarlemGlobetrotters.com — *Ellen Cushing*

An Evening of Jewish Jokes

Wh[illegible] religious sensibility, every once in a while relatively tiny chunks of geography manage to make a big difference culturally. It probably wasn't quite the same scene as, say, Seattle at the height of grunge, but the Borscht Belt — a cluster of resorts in upstate New York that catered to working- and middle-class Jewish families starting in the 1920s — has made perhaps the biggest imprint on contemporary comedy of any region, having become an incubator for a specific brand of self-deprecating and slightly kvetchy humor as well as a training ground for comedians including Woody Allen, Mel Brooks, Joan Rivers, and Lenny Bruce. But now that the resorts have all but disappeared and religious identity in

general has become much more amorphous, the folks behind **"An Evening of Jewish Jokes"** ask, "Will Jewish Jokes survive?" It's a compelling question, and it'll be explored by UC Berkeley professor **Mel Gordon**, Jewish stand-up comic **Joe Nguyen**, and former local news anchor **Bill Schechner** on Wednesday, Jan. 12, at **Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley). 8 p.m. $18.50-$22.50. 510-644-2020 or TheFreight.org. — *S.C.*

Odissi Odissi for Kids Beginning classes in Indian classical dance. Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Jyoti Kala Mandir College of Indian Classical Arts, 1834 Delaware St., Berkeley. 510-273-2447. [illegible].org.

Pajama Storytime Third and Fourth Monday of every month, 6 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library West Oakland Branch, 1801 Adeline St., Oakland. 510-238-7352. OaklandLibrary.org.

Sunset Birding For ages 12 and up. Sat., Jan. 15, 3-5 p.m. Free. Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Ave., Hayward. 510-670-7270.

Teen Advisory Board Second Wednesday of every month, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Youth Advisory Board Meeting Second Thursday of every month, 4:15-5:15 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

Youth Leadership Council Meeting for middle- and high-school aged youth. Third Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3222. OaklandLibrary.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Discussion Circle Everyone is invited to participate in a broad range of topics, including utopia, education, death, laughter, and whatever is germane. Info: 510-809-3510. First and Third Tuesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Free. Indian Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237. ICCEB.org.

Domingo de Rumba Community jam. Rumba for drummers, singers, and dancers who play rumba. First and Third Sunday of every month, 3:30-6 p.m. Free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Drinking Liberally Political discussion group. Third Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Third and fifth Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. First Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Free. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

Older Dykes United For people over 70. Fourth and Second Thursday of every month, 1:30 p.m. Free. Berkeley Gray Panthers [illegible], Berkeley. 510-548-9696.

Philosophical Roundtable A monthly discussion group. Third Sunday of every month, 12-2 p.m. Borders, 120 Crescent Dr., Pleasant Hill. 925-688-6835.

Pub Quiz Teams of two to five people compete for prizes, hosted by Amanda and Chelsea. Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-10 p.m. Free. The Missouri Lounge, 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2080. TheMissouriLounge.com.

Scrabble Club The club meets two to three times a month and holds a monthly tournament (time TBA) that costs $10 for six games. Third and First Saturday of every month, 1-6 p.m. $1. It's Your Move Games and Hobbies, 4920 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-547-4MOV (4668). ItsYourMoveGames.com.

Screening and Discussion: Plunder: The Crime of our Time Screening of the documentary about the financial crisis, with an optional potluck and social hour at 6:30 and a discussion immediately following the film. Wed., Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m. $5. [illegible] Humanist Fellowship Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland. 510-451-5818.

Singles Art and Wine Tasting Party With appetizers and all the wine you can taste. Sat., Jan. 15, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $30. Shaw Fine Art, 1308 Park Street, Alameda.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Community Bicycle Clinic Some loaner bikes and helmets available. Dress warmly, and bring a water bottle. Sat., Jan. 15, 1-3 p.m. Sat., Jan. 22, 1-3 p.m. Free. Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, Doolittle Dr. and Swan Way, Oakland. 510-562-2373. EBParks.org/Parks/MLK.

Bike Tour of Oakland Docent-led visits of Oakland parts through downtown, Fruitvale, the Port of Oakland, West Oakland, or Lake Merritt. Meet at 10th Street entrance at 10 a.m. Reservations preferred: [illegible] or 510-238-3514. First Sunday of every month, 10 a.m. Free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

Cal Men's Basketball vs. University of Washington Sun., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. $13.50-$72.50. Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-5150. CalBears.com/Facilities/Haas-Pavilion.html.

Free Rumba Lessons Saturdays, 3 p.m. Free. Hidden Hills Tennis and Racquet Club, 25290 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward.

Free Indoor Bicycle Safety Clinic Learn the rules of the road and get bike equipment and etiquette. No bicycle necessary for the class. Tue., Jan. 11, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Alta Bates Medical Center Herrick Campus, Berkeley. 510-204-4444.

Harlem Globetrotters vs. Washington Generals Sat., Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 16, 2 p.m. $16.25-$104.75. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Coliseum.com.

Livermore Park District Ranger Program: Mushroom Madness Annual mushroom hunt, led by ranger Amy and Debbie Viess from the Bay Area Mycological Society. Sat., Jan. 15, 1 p.m. Free. Sycamore Grove/Veterans Park, 1051 Wetmore Rd., Livermore. 925-960-2400. LARPD.DST.Ca.US/Open_Space/Sycamore.html.

Walnut Creek on Ice The outdoor ice rink will be open throughout the holiday season. See IceRinkWalnutCreek.com for full schedule of themed and special events. Through Jan. 17. $11-$13. Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-943-5862.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Cal Men's Basketball vs. Washington State Thu., Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m. $13.50-$72.50. Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-5150. CalBears.com/Facilities/Haas-Pavilion.html.

Golden State Warriors vs. New Jersey Nets Mon., Jan. 17, 1 p.m. $10-$1500. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Coliseum.com.

Golden Gate Fields Dollar Days Sundays. $1. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy, Berkeley. 510-559-7300. GoldenGateFields.com.

Golden State Warriors vs. LA Clippers Fri., Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m. $15-$1500. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Coliseum.com.

Golden State Warriors vs. LA Lakers Wed., Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m. $15-$1500. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Coliseum.com.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

ADMISSION IS FREE!

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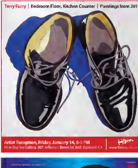
PORT OF OAKLAND



Terry Furry | Bedroom Floor, Kitchen Counter | Paintings from 2010

Artist Reception, Friday, January 14, 6-9 PM
Hive Studios Gallery, 301 Jefferson Street (at 3rd), Oakland, CA
www.hivestudios.org

a Rhythmic Concepts Inc. production

IN THE NAME OF LOVE
9th Annual Musical Tribute Honoring
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, Jan 16, 2011 • 7:00 pm
Oakland Scottish Rite Center 1547 Lakeside Dr.

Goapele
Linda Tillery & Terrance Kelly
Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir
Oakland Children's Community Choir
w/ Oaktown Jazz Workshops
Emcee: Leslie Stovel, Bay Area radio personality

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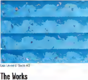
Goapele · Linda Tillery and Terrance Kelly · Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



Lisa Levine's "Swan #3"

The Works

All you can consume and digest at Kala Gallery's group show

Art writers love chewing on big ideas probably as much as self-indulgent actors enjoy masticating scenery. Remember the 19th-century Fletcherizing fad, the mandatory chewing of food 32 times before swallowing? Big thinkers love those aesthetic/theoretical enzymes, and consequently approach big group shows, with their smorgasbords of miscellaneous offerings, with the trepidation of a gourmet in a mall food court. That's a poor analogy, of course (even discounting the occasional critical pig-out on mere spectacle). The artworks in group shows are or can be as piquant and tasty as the designer delicacies at any gallery or museum. **Kala Gallery** is hosting *Fresh Work*, a large show featuring 101 works in all media made by 97 affiliated artists, i.e., members, residents, and staffers, that sprawls across the main gallery into two hallways, an office/storage room, and a conference room. With so many participants it's impossible to list all the names, but art mavens will recognize many names here and discover new ones.

Scan the buffet. Pieces that may tickle your eye-brain palate include: **Alex Benedict**'s digital monoprint abstraction on canvas, "Swarm"; **Jamin Brunson**'s miniaturist oil-alkyd painting, "Dome Stupa"; **Jessica Dunne**'s text and image book on making surfboards, *Craft*; **Argun Garberina**'s wood/bronze castor sculpture, "Head Examining Apparatus #2"; **Ewa Gavrilov**'s semi-abstract digital print, "Absent and Present"; **Stephen Holloway**'s mysterious lithograph, "The Third Body"; **Josefina Jacquin**'s bold Pop silkscreen, "La Reina"; **Theodora Varnay Jones**' lyrical abstraction, "Indistinction #6"; **Ellen Lake**'s witty breakup video, "Seaworthy," featuring a trio of Oakland's steel horses and "old good timey country music"; **Lisa Levine**'s digital print of minatory sine waves, "Swan #3"; **Stephanie Metz**'s altered found object, "Pink Cheeks and Dress"; **Gary Nakamoto**'s wry double-ringed sculpture about clogged beltways (?), "Gets 12C"; **Francesca Pastine**'s art magazine carving, "Artforum 21"; **Joanna Poethig**'s serpentine acrylic landscape, "Slither"; **Jenny Robinson**'s monumental industrial-site drypoint, "Lancaster #2"; **Anne Ross**' evocative black and white photo, "Shadow"; **Ron Moultrie Saunders**' digital print, "Dragonfly Wings"; **Dickson Schneider**'s digital print, "Pink"; **Maryly Snow**'s collaged landscape digital photo, "Oh, My California (Before) #3"; **Inez Storer**'s mixed-media painting, "Patriotism"; **Youngsuk Suh**'s wildfire series digital photo, "Father at Sunset"; **Elizabeth Tagliabue**'s photo diptych, "Pink Series #1"; **Othmar Tobisch**'s surreal sumi ink landscape, "Sentry with Sleeping Woman"; and **Mark Zaffron**'s etching/photo-etching, "Laws of Variation," with its legal-document background.

That's only 23 courses, and everything looks good. *Fresh Work* runs through February 19 at **Kala Gallery** (2990 San Pablo Ave., Oakland). 510-841-7000 or Kala.org.

—DeWitt Cheng

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/pj/theworks

ART GALLERIES

Actual Café. Holiday Loose Art Show Featuring work by Brian Richardson, Eva Silverman, and Alexis Bateman, as well as prints and Actual merchandise for sale. Through Jan. 13. 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-8166. ActualCafe.com.

Alameda Free Library. California Society of Printmakers Annual Show Work by over seventy artists. Through Jan. 28. 1550 Oak Street, Alameda. 510-865-4041. alamedafree.org/library.

[illegible]. [illegible] by Lisa [illegible] Through Jan. 31. 1823 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473. [illegible]

Autobody Fine Art. The Last Isle of [illegible] Through Jan. 29. 1517 Park Street, Alameda.

Bancroft Hotel. Sky, Rock, Water and [illegible] Song of Songs Work by Marcia Falk, in collaboration with Stephen Barson. Through Jan. 31. 2680 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1000. BancroftHotel.com/[illegible]

Barbara Fracisco Martes Center for the Arts, Las Positas College. Wind, Light and Movement photography by Pushpa Shaw. With an artist's reception Wed., Jan. 19, 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Through Jan. 19. Free. 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore.

Bedford Gallery. [illegible] Uncovering [illegible] Botanical Legacy Botanical specimens and photography by [illegible]. Through March 27. $5. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Center. Berkeley Art Center Members Showcase With work by the Center's members. Focused around the theme "green." Through Jan. 23. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch. Portraits of [illegible]: Trees and Skies 60 paintings by Ayako [illegible]. Show reception and artist's talk Sat., Jan. 15, 2 p.m. Through Feb. 6. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible]. Life on Location Work by [illegible]. Through Feb. 28. [illegible] Park St., Alameda. 510-769-4808. [illegible]

Cafe Zoe. Art at Cafe Zoe: [illegible] Through Feb. 11. 6000 College Ave., Oakland. 510-658-6563.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary. The Modernist Villa Work by [illegible] Kalogeras, [illegible], and Jonathan Runcio. Through Jan. 22. 480 23rd Street, Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

Creative Growth Art Center. [illegible] Creative Growth's annual holiday art show, featuring work by people with developmental and physical disabilities. Through Jan. 14. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340. CreativeGrowth.org.

Danville Village Theatre. Telling Tales and Mixing Metaphors Work by [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible]. With an opening reception Fri., Jan. 7, 5 p.m.-8 p.m., an art talk Wed., Feb. 2, 7 p.m., and an artist workshop Sat., Feb. 5, 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Through Jan. 28. 233 Front St., Danville. 925-314-3400. www.danville.ca.us/[illegible]

Expressions Gallery. All You Need Is Love Group show featuring work by Elizabeth [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], and many others. Jan. 15-March 25. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

Firehouse Arts Center. Paintbrush Diplomacy With work by children ages 5-18. Through Jan. 22. $2 suggested donation. 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. 925-846-1907. www.PleasantonArtsFoundation.org/

[illegible]. The Mechanics of [illegible] Collage and [illegible] by [illegible] and Benjamin [illegible], respectively. Through Jan. 28. [illegible], Oakland. 510-535-1702. [illegible]

Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center. In Their Element Work by Will [illegible] and Rebecca Coggs. Jan. 15-March 20. 4901 Breakwater Ave., Hayward. 510-670-7270.

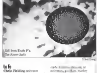
The Hive Gallery. Bedroom Floor, Kitchen Counter Paintings by Terry Furry. Jan. 14-31. 301 Jefferson St., Oakland. 925-212-[illegible].

[illegible] of East Asian [illegible]. [illegible] of Collected [illegible] Arabic, Chinese calligraphy by Haji Noor Deen. Through March 4. 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-643-0536. [illegible].berkeley.edu.

PICKS

Raven Rainbow

The show's enigmatic title, linking Poe's naysaying bird and Noah's sign of postdiluvian promise, aptly summarizes the mystical-romantic bent of its two artists. **Alexander Ginder**'s photographs reflect his interest in Mahler, heavy metal, and monsters; his monochrome photos depict denizens of the subconscious like ravens, rats, and owls (with blazing eyes, yet!) and sinister plants and trees. His color photos feature animal-headed humanoids engaged in nature rites apparently interrupted by us innocent interlopers; the prismatic color mists are created by custom lenses made, according to the gallery, from "optical toys, old Soviet cameras, prisms, or even plastic crap." San Francisco's **Shalo P.** revels in cosmic and conceptualism in his immersive video collage "The Raven Suite," in the Project Room, and in his slow, hypnotic video, "The Furnace," about "loss, death and fiery rebirth." [illegible] *Raven Rainbow* runs through January 22 at **Krowswork Gallery** (480 23rd St., Oakland). 510-229-7855 or Krowswork.com — *DeWitt Cheng*



Still from Shalo P.'s *The Raven Suite*

© DeWitt Cheng

La Fe

Chris Fielding embraces "detritus that once was a part of our lives, so 'Faith,'" *La Fe* in Spanish, seems an appropriate title. The artist imbues miscellaneous scavenged artifacts with life and meaning that are communicated to the observant, disbelief-suspended viewer. "Just As It Is," assembled from a kitchen cabinet, frying pan, horse muscle photograph, and light fixture, suggests a Pop collaboration between Rauschenberg and Johns; it's both eclectic and hermetic. The two "Beaded Treasures" assemblages suggest bizarrely ornamented spiral conch [illegible], or [illegible], pull tabs, marker [illegible]. "C[illegible]," with its pole-mounted bath or [illegible] receptacles, suggests so as. Somewhat variety of post-[illegible]: Fielding's paintings ("From Memory," "Big Bear"), digital photos ("What Am I ... Flying a Chicken," "Yo Yo," "Spitting Rainbows") and porcelain cups infuse found imagery with joyous whimsy. *La Fe* runs (along with *Mercury Multiples*, affordable original art by gallery members) through January 29 at **Mercury 20 Gallery** (475 25th St., Oakland). 510-701-4620 or MercuryTwenty.com — *DeC.*

Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden. Dreamscapes Acrylic paintings by Malia Bush. With an opening reception Fri. Jan. 21, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Through Jan. 28. 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385. JuliesTea.com.

K Gallery. Black & Blank: Exploring the Continent of Color Work in various media by David Peterson, Kate Kaufman, Brendan Clune, Angie Marzorana, Trashanna Lastic, and Phong Lang. Jan. 14-March 5. 2012 Mercury Ave., Oakland. 510-845-9088. Khymehk.org.

Kala Gallery and Art Institute. Kala Artists' Annual Exhibition New work in various media by over 100 artists affiliated with Kala. Through Feb. 19. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

Krowswork. Ginder/Shaneer Photography and video by Alexander Ginder, and video and installation by Shalo P. Through Jan. 22. 480 23rd St., Oakland.

Field Bennett + Art. Lil Taffy 3 Prints and posters by the local designer. Through Jan. 22. 412 22nd St., Oakland. 510-625-0123. [illegible]

La Peña Cultural Center. Celebrate History's Mystery With work by over forty artists on display. Through Feb. 27. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Maple Hall. The Art of Living Black 2011 Paintings, pastels and prints by Kalvin Curry, Ron Smith, and Karen Turner. Jan. 15-Feb. 20. 13831 San Pablo Ave., #4, San Pablo. 510-215-3082.

Oakland Jobelson Gallery. Brought to Light With large-scale watercolor paintings by Matthew Day Mullins and digital video by Bosh Khor. Through Feb. 8. 2205 6th St., Berkeley. 510-514-8083.

Mercury 20 Gallery. Mercury Multiples: Black & Editions Artist's Multiples by Charlie Milgrim, Kathleen King, P.K. Friedl, and others. With a reception Fri. Jan. 7, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Through Nov. 29. **La Fe** New work by Chris Fielding. Through Jan. 29. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-484-7780. MercuryTwenty.com.

MOCHA. Oakland at Oakland's Art. As Above, So Below: Reflections in the Art and Poetry of Oakland from The River of Words Collection With fifteen years' worth of work by children participating in the Environmental Poetry and Art Contest. Through Jan. 30. free. 538 9th St., Oakland. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

NIAD Art Studio. Twist and Twirl With work by artists across the country, an outlier by Monk from the Oakland Museum of Art and Creativity studio program. Jan. 10-March 18. 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADart.org.

Nielsen Art Gallery. Times and Opening Photography by Kathryn Brandon and Joseph Schell. Through Jan. 14. 1530 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-0906. NielsenArts.com.

Oakland City Hall. Re-Create Expanded: The Traveling Exhibit Art made from found and recycled materials and created by Oakland students. Through Jan. 31. 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland.

Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch. Building Your Dream Life Out of Chaos Documentary photography by Nancy Bonesteel. Through Jan. 29. 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

Ouisseppia Dreaddy Element. One with Life Tableaux: annual winter solstice altar show featuring work by Joanne Ambrosini, Anne Hugo, Marty Weyand and Josh Jones. Through Jan. 18. 447 25th St., Oakland.

Pixtopia Gallery. Best of 2010: A Year in Photographs Through Feb. 3. 1300 59th St., Emeryville.

Pictorfish Gallery. Nudes Photography by Jan Sapovcich. With an opening reception Fri. Jan. 7, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Through Jan. 22. 2235 Fifth St., Berkeley.

Pro Arts Gallery. Dream Biennial, 2011 Featuring work selected by the Denver-based curator Pablo Santisteven. Through Jan. 14. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361.

Rowan Morrison Gallery. March Into The Out New sculptures by Crystal Morey. Through Jan. 22. 330 40th St., Oakland. 510-384-5344. RowanMorrison.com.

Royal NoneSuch Gallery. [Few] Honest [More] Alternative [Thinking] And [This] Reality A new installation by Casey Logan and Adam Hathaway. Through Jan. 30. free. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. RoyalNonesuchGallery.com.

Sacred Rose Tattoo/SRG Gallery. Match in Wonderland Work by KC Angle and Matt Bode. Through Feb. 11. 1728 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-1988. SacredRoseTattoo.com.

Sight Unseen. ...Dem's a mess after we've finished... With work by Morgan Maredney, Peter Husky, and Mike Calvert-Fagan. Through Feb. 6. 5491 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. SightUnseen.com.

Slate Contemporary Art and Design Gallery. Recent Work by Carol Inez Charney Through Jan. 29. 4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Studio Oakland Breeze & Vintage: A Cultural of Curiosities Work by Joy Broom. With an opening reception Fri. Jan. 7, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Through Feb. 19. 3811 25th St., Oakland.

Swarm Studios + Gallery. Things Are Expanding Group show. Through Jan. 16. 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787. SwarmGallery.com.

Tayerbok Gallery. New Work by Amy Kaufman Paintings. Through March 5. 1935 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214. Tayerbok.com.

UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Mind the Gap New Guinea photographs by Stephen Goldstein. Through Jan. 18. 121 North Gate Hall #5860, Berkeley. 510-642-6800. Journalism.berkeley.edu.

The Uptown Annual Show. Collaborative, interdisciplinary work by Ruth Hedgins and Eli Rosenberg. With an opening reception Sun. Jan. 9, 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Through Feb. 12. 2-9 p.m. 768 40th St., Oakland. WeArtSpace.com.

MUSEUMS

Berkeley Art Museum. Unhinge An unusual exploration of Beautiful Binding, with work by Jeff Crouse. Through Nov. 30. **Radical Light: Alternative Film and Video in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1945-2000** Featuring posters, movie stills, and various other artifacts that trace the Bay Area's rich history of alternative filmmaking. Through March 6. free-$10. **Ronald Lake Brown** Paintings by Alam Rathsom. Through June 10. free-$10. **Matrix 235** Work by Emily Barsnik. Through March 6. **Rivers of the Past: Qing Dynasty Chinese Painting** Chinese paintings from the 16th through 17th centuries. Through June 20. free-$10. **Those Founders. BAM/Ingen** Commissioned work includes sculpture and furniture carved in abstract designs. Through Nov. 30. 2621 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. bampfa.berkeley.edu.

2010–2011 SEASON

music dance theater

Cal Performances

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Tango Buenos Aires

Fri, Jan 21, 8 pm
Zellerbach Hall Prices start at $22

One of Argentina's great cultural exports, Tango Buenos Aires is known worldwide for its authentic and uncompromising interpretations of this seductive art form. Sometimes playful, sometimes dramatic—but always sensuous—this is impeccably precise dance powered by amazing legs, deep slides, ballet-like spins and powerful foot stomps.

Lobby Talk, 6-8 pm, Zellerbach Hall Lobby, Jesse "Chuy" Varela and special guests

Joshua Redman Quartet with Aaron Goldberg, Reginald Veal & Gregory Hutchinson

Sat, Jan 22, 8 pm
Zellerbach Hall Prices start at $22

Acclaimed and charismatic jazz artist Joshua Redman returns to his hometown of Berkeley. A fearsomely gifted saxophonist, Redman brings an adventurous and playful spirit to his music.

An Evening with Wallace Shawn
Real World, Fake World, Dream World

Sun, Jan 23, 7 pm
Zellerbach Hall Prices start at $32

Beloved for his roles in films like *My Dinner with Andre*, *The Princess Bride*, and *Clueless*, Wallace Shawn is also an award-winning playwright and essayist. In Berkeley, Shawn will read from his past plays—the self-described "world of dreams"—and recent writings known for their lucid, often provocative assertions.

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, *piano*

Wed, Jan 26, 8 pm
Zellerbach Hall Prices start at $36

Works by Franz Liszt

French piano superstar Jean-Yves Thibaudet continues to enthrall audiences the world over with his profound artistry and enlightened interpretations. Spotlighting his prodigious technique, Thibaudet brings a virtuosic all-Liszt program to Berkeley. This is dazzling piano music, full of controlled and moving pianissimos and bold and commanding fortes.

Program: Liszt: *Consolations*, *Les jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este*, *Légendes*, *Meine Freuden* (after Chopin), Ballade No. 2, "Liebestod" after Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, Tarantella from *Venezia e Napoli*

Keynotes, 5-6 pm, Zellerbach Hall Lobby. Talk arranged by participants in UC Berkeley Dept of Music's Pianism seminar

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THEATER & DANCE

Alex Koll

Wizard Hello

The whole concept of "wizard comedy" made a lot more sense four months ago, when Alex Koll had a full bushy **Rip Van Winkle** beard — the kind that could either be an aesthetic choice or a gardening project. (Oh, snap.) Just kidding, the beard was great. And it worked well as a gimmick, particularly for jokes about being "face-raped by the woods." Koll used a wizard bit as his opener for *Wizard Hello*, which he recorded for a sold-out crowd at the **Punch Line** in August. It was rich. "Usually, we wizards have to tell jokes in large caves, in front of unmagical crystals," Koll said, using his best Gandalf-inspired bellow. Audience members jeered. A few weeks later, Koll shaved the beard, ditched all the Old Testament references, and acclimated to looking about ten years younger. For a while, he switched to fat kid jokes.

So think of *Wizard Hello* as a beard forever immortalized. Koll is a smart, sassy, dyspeptic, pissed-off-at-the-world comedian with an elaborate fantasy life. He's partial to gross-out humor. Performing at the **Dark Room Theater** every Wednesday, he's offered many illuminating stories about diarrhea, boners, and "hurty panties" (i.e., a thong worn during a mushroom trip). *Wizard Hello* continues in that vein. The second bit, about Koll's botched love affair with tequila, includes a rather detailed description of the consequences. Koll is convinced that vomiting can produce an extended moment of clarity.

ALEX KOLL
WIZARD HELLO

Wizard Hello has many indelicate moments. Barf, sweat, semen, pee, and other bodily excretions all become topics of interest. One setup has Koll in his living room, fucking a shoe. Another begins with a sign banning "food waste" from his office toilet. There are sex jokes, poop jokes, masturbation jokes, jokes that involve foreign accents, and jokes that would function as insults, if anyone had the gall to plagiarize them. Most interesting are the jokes with elaborate premises. Koll has a funky imagination, and it serves him well so long as the audience is willing to follow suit.

Occasionally, he throws too many curve balls. The shoe-fucking joke actually isn't about shoes or fucking. It's about a bat that enters Koll's living room, shits out a lit cigarette, and pops it into the comedian's mouth. Koll has been telling that joke for years, and it always has a few people scratching their heads. At this particular show, the idea of a guy fornicating with an inanimate object got more laughs than the joke's actual punch line. In more surreal moments, Koll played poker with a deer and rewrote the Prince hit "1999" so it would actually accord with the opening lyric *I was dreaming when I wrote this/Forgive me if it goes astray*.

Koll is not absurdist like **Brent Weinbach**. He's more of a common man comic, except that he talks about everyday stuff in a very weird way. Koll has some elaborate flights of fancy, but he knows how to bring them into the trenches of quotidian life. Nearly all of his bits involve some form of anthropomorphism, or some weird plot twist. The wizard retired his beard but not his cape. (Rooftop Comedy Productions)

Alex Koll performs at the Punch Line (444 Battery St., San Francisco) on Monday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m., $15. AlexKoll.com

— *Rachel Swan*

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/wizardhello

PICKS

Of the Earth.

Of the Earth

The ancient Greeks left some things in the lap of the Gods, but playwright **Jon Tracy** sees a motivation behind every action. Thus, the issue of free will looms large in each of his works, including those that tackle Greek mythology. This month he presents the second of two "Salt Plays" produced under the auspices of **Shotgun Players**. The first, which debuted this summer, focused on Homer's *Iliad*; this one, titled *Of the Earth*, reexamines *The Odyssey* through a contemporary lens. It's high-concept and low-tech, with actors constantly banging drums in the background. Tracy repurposes several actors from previous plays, such as **Anna Ishida**, who plays a strident Poseidon, and **Charisse Loriaux**, a snaky seductress Circe. Resonances between the Trojan War and the current situation in Iraq aren't lost on Tracy: he brings them out in creative ways. Lloyd Vance's haunting video projections are both an extension of the characters' psychology and an enhancement of Nina Ball's sparse set design. Through January 16 at **The Ashby Stage** (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). $17-$30. ShotgunPlayers.org. — *Rachel Swan*

COMEDY

Be Funny With local comics. Hosted by Christopher Higgins and featuring [illegible]. Tuesdays, 7 p.m., free. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland. TheNewParish.com.

The Big Boys of Comedy Featuring [illegible], Ian Keeler, John DeHaven, and Sean Sethi. Fri., Jan. 14, 7:30-9 p.m. $10 plus two-item minimum. [illegible] Comedy Lounge, 6613 Regional St., Dublin. 925-264-4413. [illegible]Comedy.com.

The Comedy Grab Bag With Bay Area professional and amateur comics doing five-to-ten-minute sets. Thu., Jan. 13, 7:30-9 p.m. $5, plus two-item minimum. [illegible] Comedy Lounge, 6613 Regional St., Dublin. 925-264-4413. [illegible]Comedy.com.

An Evening of Jewish Jokes Featuring a set by Jewish stand-up comic [illegible], a lecture on the history of the Jewish joke by UC Berkeley professor Mel Gordon, and a Jewish joke open mic. Wed., Jan. 12, 8:00 p.m. $14.50 in advance, $16.50 at the door. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 2020 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-644-2020. TheFreight.org.

High Street Comedy Hosted by Tom Anderson, with weekly guests. Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Continues through Jan. 25. $5-$15. High Street Station, 1303 High Street, Alameda.

Open Mic Sign-ups at 6:30 p.m., show at 7 p.m. Fourth and Second Friday of every month, 6:30-9 p.m., free. Woody's Cafe, 1841 Park Blvd., Oakland. 510-893-0881. WoodysCafe.weebly.com/index.html.

Mark Zhang With Dan Feldman, Gail Jones, Allen K, and special guests. Sat., Jan. 15, 7:30-9 p.m. $10 plus two-item minimum. [illegible] Comedy Lounge, 6613 Regional St., Dublin. 925-264-4413. [illegible]Comedy.com.

Oakland Comedy Show and Open-Mic Hosted by Haziiah & [illegible], with [illegible]. Second Thursday of every month, 8 p.m. $7. [illegible], 12th St., Oakland. 510-763-8484.

Rachel Feinstein Thu., Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Jan. 14, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 15, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 16, 7 p.m. $16-$25. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800. TommyTs.com.

Saturday Night Comedy with Ann Randolph, Marla [illegible], [illegible], and Johnny Steele Featuring a rotating lineup of other performers. Saturdays, 8 p.m. $15-35 sliding scale, $50 reserved seats. The Marsh Berkeley Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4049. TheMarsh.org.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

San Francisco Dance Dance Festival AndFlows With short pieces by more than 100 Northern California companies representing dance traditions from all over the world. Sat., Jan. 15, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 16, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. $10 per day. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-8895. CalPerformances.org.

Sense UP Multimedia world dance performance by the Lioduring dance company. Choreographed by [illegible]. Sat., Jan. 15, 8 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 16, 3 p.m. $10-$20. Studio 12, 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-527-8818.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

The Aeneid [illegible] directs actors and inspired teens in this adaptation of [illegible]'s story. With a variety of previews and special events; check Berkeley Rep's website for full schedule. Tuesdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 15, 2 & 8 p.m. Continues through Jan. 15. $29-$73. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

Disney's The Aristocats Stage adaptation of the 1970 Disney musical, performed by third-through-sixth-graders from Berkeley Playhouse KidStage and directed by Jerry R. Bouse and Amy [illegible]. Sat., Jan. 15, 2 & 7 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 16, 12 & 5 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 17, 12 & 5 p.m. $15 youth, $20 adults. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org.

The Last Earth Out Monologue about American [illegible], performed by [illegible] and directed by Jean-Michele Gregory. Through Jan. 25: 8 p.m. Sat., Jan. 15, 7 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 16, 2 & 7 p.m. Every other Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m. Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. Every other Wednesday, Thursday, 2 p.m. Every other Sunday, 2 & 7 p.m. Continues through Feb. 21. $69-$59. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

Of the Earth World premiere of the Greek tragedy inspired by *The Odyssey*. Written and directed by Jon Tracy with original music by Brendan West. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Jan. 16. $17-$30. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500. ShotgunPlayers.org.

Strange Travel Suggestions Improvised comedic monologues by Jeff Greenwald. Thursdays, 1 days, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 5 p.m. Continues through Jan. 22. $15-$35. The Marsh Berkeley Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4049. TheMarsh.org.

Trapped in a Romeo Series Comedy Sat., Jan. 15, 7 p.m.; Wed., Jan. 19, 7 p.m. $15. Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. 925-314-3463. VillageTheatreShows.com.

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LECTURES & LIT

Finding the Road to Everywhere

Memoirist Bryan Charles remembers working in the Twin Towers on 9/11/01.

Bryan Charles

When **Bryan Charles** rolled into Penn Station from Kalamazoo in 1998, he was heartsick and laden with baggage both literal and figurative. Your not-quite-average college-educated Corn Belt heterosexual intellectual had authored a short book about the Pavement album *Wowee Zowee*, bore an enormity of journal and manuscript pages, and "wanted to achieve extraordinary things."

Settling in Brooklyn with fellow Michiganders, Charles found a job at Morgan Stanley on the seventieth floor of the World Trade Center's South Tower. He was still working there on September 11, 2001, and walked away alive, if horrified, by what he calls "that bullshit" in his new memoir ***There's a Road to Everywhere Except Where You Came From***, which he will discuss at **Diesel** (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Wednesday, January 19.

Growing up in Kalamazoo shaped his life, Charles said. "My parents divorced when I was quite young. I was obsessed with tits and music; I played in a band. At some point in my late teens, my biological father, whom I'd never been close to, decided that that was the perfect time to really start bonding and he started making these bland kind of overtures," said Charles, who drew upon some of these experiences when writing his 2006 novel *Grab Onto Me Tightly as If I Knew the Way*.

"It's a coming-of-age novel, and 'coming-of-age' gets kind of a bad rap, at least in lit circles," he said. "No one wants to hear about it and you get a lot of resistance — a lot of it a passive kind of well-meaning resistance, but still. You feel like a jerk telling people what your book's about."

Perhaps because the market is flooded with coming-of-age novels, his manuscript was initially rejected time and again, leaving Charles to wonder: "So what am I supposed to do? Scrap the whole idea and write a legal thriller? Or a multigenerational family saga? Something about the Holocaust? ... In the end, you just have to do your best with your material, and you have to believe in it and be committed to it in order for it to resonate and be real. I'm not saying it wasn't a struggle."

That struggle continued when writing *There's a Road to Everywhere Except Where You Came From* meant translating authentically lived experience into heart-wrenching nonfiction.

"I remember after I finished *Grab* — it was as if an enormous weight had been lifted," Charles recalled. "Then, was this deep-soul release and I thought, 'I'm never writing anything again.' And for over a year I didn't. I had to get back in a cubicle and refill the coffers and dull myself out. Then at some point I got the itch." *7 p.m., free. DieselBookstore.com*

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story, type: ebx.sh/bryancharles

LECTURES

[illegible] Fisher: "Shepherding your Artwork to a Broader Audience" Workshop for artists about marketing themselves and their work. Sat., Jan. 15, 2 p.m. $10. Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Anarchists Against the Wall Presentation about the Israel-Palestine conflict and the direct action organization Anarchists Against the Wall's work to resolve it. Sun., Jan. 16, 7 p.m. $10-$20. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Angie McQuaig: "Educating Skeptically" A discussion centering around the practice of skepticism and how it applies to education. Wed., Jan. 12, 7 p.m., donations accepted. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Discussion: "Supporting Boys of Color in Independent Schools" Thu., Jan. 13, 7-8 p.m. East Bay School for Boys, 1755 Scenic Ave., Berkeley.

[illegible] Abuelaish: "I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity" The Palestinian physician and humanitarian tells his story and discusses the past, present, and future of Israel-Palestine relations. Thu., Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m. $8-$15. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-3696.

Assange and Wikileaks: "[illegible] Gates, Lies and Murder" With a presentation on the cables' revelations by Larry Everett, followed by a group discussion. Tue., Jan. 18, 7 p.m. free. Revolution Books, 2425 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-1196. www.revolutionbooks.org/

Panel Discussion: "The Future of Fuel: [illegible] Solutions to Global Energy Challenges" With a panel of scientists from the US Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute, moderated by KTVU Channel 2's John Fowler. Tue., Jan. 18, 7 p.m. free. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-943-7469. DLRCA.org.

[illegible] Wolff: "Capitalism Hits the Fan: The Global Economic Meltdown and What to Do About It" The economist discusses the recent recession and its fallout. Sun., Jan. 16, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $12 in advance, $15 at the door. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

Screening and Discussion: *The Economics of Happiness* Screening of the documentary about the global economic localization movement, followed by a panel discussion with producer Helena Norberg-Hodge, author Richard Heinberg, [illegible] of the Sustainable Economies Law Center, [illegible] and Eric Holt-Gimenez of Food First. Thu., Jan. 13, 6:30-10 p.m. $15 suggested donation. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

[illegible]: "Building Community Through Storytelling" Documentarian and storyteller [illegible] discusses her work as part of the College's "Jan Term" speaker series. Wed., Jan. 12, 7-8 p.m. free. Soda Activity Center, 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. 925-631-4000.

LITERARY EVENTS

[illegible] Presenting his new book of poster art. Sun., Jan. 16, 2-5 p.m., free. Vintage European Posters, 2200 Fourth Street, Berkeley.

Heart of the [illegible] Open Mic Night Hosted by Aries White. Fri., Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-521-7777. BooksInc.net.

Julia Vinograd and [illegible] Reading their poetry. Fri., Jan. 14, 7 p.m. Nefeli Caffe, 1854 Euclid St., Berkeley. 510-841-6374.

Julie Gilgoff Reading from her memoir *A Granddaughter's Rite of Passage: Tales from the McCarthy Era*. Also featuring wine, cheese, and music. Sun., Jan. 16, 5-7 p.m. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

M.L. Liebler Presenting the anthology about all aspects of life in the working class, *Working Words: Punching the Clock and Kicking Out the Jams*. Along with [illegible], Sue Doro, [illegible], Michael McClure, and Al Young. Sun., Jan. 16, 3-4 p.m. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

[illegible] Presenting his book, *Haunting Houses: My Work as a Psychic House Cleaner — Why We Feel Emotional and Spiritual Energy in Our Homes, Whether They're Haunted By Ghosts or Not*. Wed., Jan. 12, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlaceforBooks.com.

PICKS

Adair Lara

Her success as a *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist and the author of many books including *Hold Me Close, Let Me Go* and *Normal Is Just a Setting on the Dryer* proves that **Adair Lara** knows how to write about personal matters. At **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Sunday, Jan. 16, she discusses ***Naked, Drunk, and Writing: Shed Your Inhibitions and Craft a Compelling Memoir or Personal Essay***, her new book from Berkeley's Ten Speed Press. 4 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com — *Anneli Rufus*

Mary Volmer

In **Mary Volmer**'s debut historical novel ***Crown of Dust***, the Gold Rush is luring pioneers from all over the world to California boomtowns. In one of these, a girl disguises herself as a boy in order to escape a troubled past. In the guise, she finds love and friendship — but risks losing her happiness and sense of security when she strikes gold. Meet Volmer at **Books Inc.** (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Sunday, Jan. 16, 5 p.m., free. BooksInc.net — *A.R.*

Homegrown Fruit Lecture

Get serious about saving a fortune in groceries by growing your own fruit. At the **Richmond Public Library** (325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond) on Tuesday, Jan. 18, **John Valenzuela** of the Golden Gate Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers gives a talk on home-growing rare and heirloom varieties, in preparation for his group's annual plant-sharing extravaganza, the Scion Exchange, at the library on Saturday, Jan. 22. 6:30 p.m., free. RichmondGrows.org — *A.R.*

Monologue Lecture

Having won a Bay Area Critics Circle Award, three *Seattle Times* Footlight Awards, and many other honors, monologist **Mike Daisey** riffs on everything from iPhones to Nikola Tesla to Amazon.com. At the **Orinda Public Library** (26 Orinda Way, Orinda) on Wednesday, Jan. 19, a docent from the Berkeley Repertory Theatre gives a talk on Daisey's monologues "The Last Cargo Cult" and "The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs." 7 p.m., free. CCLibrary.org — *A.R.*

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BODY&SOUL

Dreamers and Doers

The thirteenth annual "Make the Dream Real" event has a high profile and a high purpose

As a writer, having some of your best work erroneously attributed to someone much more famous could conceivably fall into worst-nightmare territory. But if you're a motivational speaker and the unknowing plagiarist is none other than Nelson Mandela, well, worse things could happen.

"As honored as I would be had President Mandela quoted my words, indeed he did not," said **Marianne Williamson** years ago upon learning that a few lines from one of her books had been mistakenly attributed to the famed South African leader's 1994 inauguration speech. ("Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.") Yet she viewed the confusion with the kind of sanguine measuredness one might expect from someone who makes a living being wise: "I have no idea where that story came from, but I am gratified that the paragraph has come to mean so much to so many people."

Marianne Williamson.

Williamson, who will speak at the annual **"Make the Dream Real"** event at **Taylor United Methodist Church** (1188 12th St., Oakland) on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day — Monday, January 17 — is something of a self-help celebrity. She's appeared on *Oprah* numerous times, commands upwards of $10,000 for speaking engagements, and has seen several of her books — which tend to focus on metaphysics, gender, spirituality and service, among other topics — land on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

For this reason, snagging Williamson, who will be speaking for free, was a bit of a coup for the celebration's organizers. But it's fitting for a speaker whose rhetorical style and themes are said to echo those of King's. "She's a very powerful, very clear thinker, and she's an activist who's very interested in social causes and social equity and very aligned with what MLK was about and what he talked about," said **Lily Smith**, one of the tribute's organizers. "We're very excited to have her."

Now in its thirteenth year, "Make the Dream Real" — which is organized by members of the **Attitudinal Healing Connection**, an Oakland-based anti-violence and community-engagement nonprofit — has come to be the largest Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration in Oakland, drawing about a thousand attendees. Williamson is expected to be a big draw, but Smith was careful to note that the rest of the program offers more than its share of highlights: mistress of ceremonies **Aimee Allison** of KPFA's *Morning Show*; musical performances by groups including the **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Youth Choir** and Ching's **Spirit Youth Ensemble**; indigenous sacred prayer; a slate of speakers including local theologian and author **Matthew Fox**; and an awards ceremony honoring local community members who have made a difference in the areas of leadership, philanthropy, and service.

The awards ceremony, Smith said, is central to the event's mission, as is Williamson's message of active community and political participation. And as Smith noted, it fits nicely with newly inaugurated Mayor Jean Quan's recent call to service in the city. "This is truly a well-organized, very powerful group of people that are really making substantial changes in the community," she said. "It's not just lip service." 10 a.m., free. 510-652-5530 or AHC-Oakland.org.

— Ellen Cushing

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/dreamers

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Breast Breast Support Group for Spanish-Speaking Women Registration required. [illegible] Third and First Monday of every month. 4-6 p.m., free. [illegible] Center [illegible] 450 30th St., Room [illegible], Oakland. [illegible]

Eight Lessons in Eating for Health and Vitality Eight-week course teaches the core concepts in whole food nutrition and culinary arts. Wednesdays, [illegible] p.m. Continues through Feb. 23. $185. Bauman College, 900 Grayson St., Berkeley. 510-540-7041. BaumanCollege.org.

Fibromyalgia Support Group Sufferers and their supporters are invited to monthly. Third Tuesday of every month. 12-2 p.m., free. [illegible] Alta Bates Medical Center, Herrick Campus, Berkeley. 510-204-4444.

Henry's Kids: Oakland [illegible] A mobile health van where children [illegible] immunizations, [illegible] education, checkups, blood pressure checks, and Head Start screenings, entirely free to children. Please bring your child's yellow immunization card. Second Wednesday of every month. 5:30-7 p.m. 510-444-[illegible]. Oakland Elizabeth House, 6423 Colby St., Oakland. [illegible]

PERSONAL GROWTH

Love Chemistry: Fall in Love by Valentine's Day With exercises and games focused on clarifying bodies. [illegible] hormonal and emotional impulses, and creating an action plan for love. Wed., Jan. 12, 7:30-9 p.m., $[illegible]. [illegible] Suites, [illegible] Addison St., #[illegible], Berkeley. 415-[illegible]. [illegible].com.

Self-Knowledge for Enlightenment Nine-week course focusing on developing self-knowledge and eliminating negative and destructive feelings. Mondays, Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Continues through Jan. 14, free. SF Bay Area Gnostic Center, 3801 Oakland Ave., Berkeley. [illegible] GnosticAwareness.org/BayArea.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Angel Light Metaphysical Fair With tarot, clairvoyant, and crystal readings, and much more. Third Sunday of every month, 1-4 p.m. $15 for fifteen-minutes. Angel Light Books, 3347 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

Fairy Magic Class Including fairy gentle guided meditation, and listening under "the spider of the fairies and the meaning it has in our lives." Sat., Jan. 15, 2-3:30 p.m. $2[illegible]. Angel Light Books, 3347 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

Wild Goose Qigong Course Sundays, 4:30 p.m. Continues through March 13. $[illegible]. Energy Matters, 4341 Piedmont Ave., Oakland.

YOGA & BODYWORK

Beginner's Yantra Yoga [illegible] introductory workshop under [illegible] on the Tibetan yoga practice. Open to both new and experienced practitioners. Sun., Jan. 16, 12:30-2 p.m., Jan. 18-19, 7-8:30 p.m., $15 drop-in; $90 for the full series. Yoga Mandala, 2807 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-486-1350. YogaMandalaStudio.com.

Community Yoga [illegible] yoga for all ages and experience levels, led by [illegible]. Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Continues through Feb. 24. $10 per class or $85 for eight classes. Yoga in the Middle, 20211 Patio Dr., Castro Valley. 510-537-2584. YogaInTheMiddle.com.

Introduction to Yoga for Absolute Beginners A gentle five week series. Through Jan. 26, 7:30-9 p.m. $70 for one or two people. Yoga in the Middle, 20211 Patio Dr., Castro Valley. 510-537-2584. YogaInTheMiddle.com.

Introductory Yoga Course Sundays, 3 p.m. Continues through Feb. 13. $50 for four sessions. Castro Valley Yoga, 20801 Wilbeam Ave., Suite 4, Castro Valley.

Kirtan Session With vocalist and musician [illegible]. Second Friday of every month, 8:30 p.m., donations requested. Yoga Mandala, 2807 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-486-1350. YogaMandalaStudio.com.

New Moon Celebration Kundalini Yoga Class With [illegible]. Fri., Jan. 14, 6-7:15 p.m. $10. Nirvaga Center, 1808 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-1310. NirvagaCenter.org.

Yoga For Large People With modified poses and [illegible] specifically tailored to larger bodies. Thursdays, 6-7:15 p.m. $10. Nirvaga Center, 1808 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-1310. NirvagaCenter.org.

PICKS

Health Online Lecture

From the symptoms of tuberculosis to the benefits of [illegible], many of us seek answers to health questions online. But which of the millions of health-related web sites are worthwhile? Cosponsored by John Muir Health and the Glen Senbery Learning Connection, a **lecture** at the **Lafayette Public Library** (3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette) on Friday, Jan. 14 details how to use computers and other forms of technology to address health-related concerns. 11 a.m., free. CCLibrary.org. *— Anneli Rufus*

Bicycle Outing

Start 2011 well with a new sport and a fun new fitness program. On Saturday, Jan. 15, staff from the East Bay Regional Park District's recreation department lead a **beginning-bicycle outing** through Martin Luther King, Junior Shoreline Park. Meet at the **Tidewater Aquatic Center** (4855 Tidewater Ave., Oakland), bring snacks and water. A limited supply of loaner bikes and helmets will be available. 1 p.m., free. EBParks.org. *— A.R.*

Yoga for Full-Figured Women

Full-bodied women can be flexible, too. Open to beginners as well as those at other skill levels, **"Large and Graceful: Deepening"** is a class taught at **4th Street Yoga** (1809 Fourth St., Berkeley) by **Sally Pugh**, focusing on breathing practices and poses that strengthen the core body and develop balance and flexibility. Part of the class will be devoted to restorative yoga, relaxation, and meditation, with time for discussing individual participant's needs and wants. 2 p.m., $60. 4thStreetYoga.com *— A.R.*

Childbirth Yoga Class

Childbirth adapts all of the human body. At **Yoga Mandala** (2807 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Sunday, Jan. 16, **Jessica Ezra Patri** teaches a class for expectant mothers and their partners or birth companions. Called **"Conscious Birth,"** the class covers mindfulness during various stages of labor, coping/working with pain, positions for laboring and birth, enduring fear, meditating and visualization, and more. All participants will receive a guided meditation CD. 3 p.m., $40. YogaMandalaStudio.com *— A.R.*

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AQUARIUM AGE

TIME TO GET LOOSE

For the week of January 12-18, 2011

By Ralfee Finn

Make "flexibility" your mantra this week, and be prepared to stretch physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. The planets are either shifting or getting ready to shift positions, and as they alter their celestial alignments, Earthlings will straddle parallel universes. And because several of those simultaneous realities are light years apart, the ability to bridge altitudes on a moment's notice will be a necessary and handy tool. Mercury moves back into Capricorn on January 13, and as it does it forms a conjunction with Pluto. Mercury signifies communication and Pluto represents power; when they share the same degree of the zodiac, over-the-top yet convincing rhetoric is probable. Expect an inordinate amount of proclamations, particularly from politicians who will not only be vying for the lead position but also competing for dominance, each proclaiming to be the voice of the people. From a personal perspective, this conjunction could produce a tendency to brood over words said in haste or, at the other end of the spectrum, not yet spoken. Either way, what's clear is just how powerful an idea can be when it is passionately expressed.

Mars moves into Aquarius on January 15, tilting attention every so slightly toward altruistic goals. Mars symbolizes evolution and self assertion, as well as physical strength, and when it moves through the egalitarian Sign of Aquarius, its muscle tends to lean toward reform. Whether this will impact political tactics remains to be seen, but its transit through Aquarius is sure to impact individual efforts aimed at independence. Aquarius is, after all, the Sign of personal freedom. The Sun moves into Aquarius on January 20, forming a conjunction with Mars. The combined influence of the Sun and Mars is sure to excite freedom fighters around the globe, which means we can anticipate surges in violence — even in those places where the violence is already too much to bear.

Saturn begins a retrograde phase on January 26 that will last until June 12. And while that "turn around" takes place in two weeks, this week we will start to feel Saturn slow down. But be aware: This retrograde is not about daily life turning into a molasses swamp. Saturn retrograde is not the same as Mercury retrograde, so don't panic about communication and travel snafus. Saturn is the symbol of discernment, and it signifies the ability to distill wisdom from experience. As part of that distillation process, Saturn enables us to learn from our mistakes. Its review reaches back to October 2010, which means we will be reviewing and revising systems and structures put into place over the course of the last several months with an eye toward whether or not those arrangements could be improved.

Jupiter also throws its weight around this week. It is in the last degrees of Pisces, beginning its separation from Uranus, and preparing for its entry into Aries. While Jupiter has no problem multitasking, handling the wide expanse of its domain could be a problem for some of us, especially if we are susceptible to the pressure of having to get everything done at once.

Remember, flexibility is key to handling the ebb and flow of this week. So do your best to stay agile in body, mind, heart and spirit, and allow that agility to help you bridge a multitude of demands and dimensions.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES While moderation is not your strong suit, discipline has its benefits. I'm not advising you to become an ascetic. I'm simply suggesting that you be realistic about what's possible.

TAURUS There's no need to worry about what you can't control. Sometimes things fall apart so that something new — and better — can come into being. Rather than insisting on a specific outcome, trust the process.

GEMINI If you can't find the solution, seek the advice of experts. Asking for help won't indicate a weakness. Knowing your limitations and acting accordingly will demonstrate your strength and wisdom.

CANCER There's no need to pretend, especially with significant others. Simply stand in your truth and express your feelings. You may not get the response you desire, but your honesty will clear the air.

LEO An early burst of spring fever turns your attention toward romance, making it slightly harder to concentrate on what needs to be done. But don't worry: you won't drift too far away on those clouds of infatuation.

VIRGO Your creative cup runneth over, but there are still practical details to consider. The big picture will take care of itself if you take care of the small stuff.

LIBRA The solution is actually simple, but it requires being honest with yourself about what you need in order to feel settled and content from the inside out and from the outside in.

SCORPIO Honor your longing to belong and you're likely to experience a new sense of clarity about what's necessary to turn your home into a true sanctuary.

SAGITTARIUS Don't be self-conscious about wearing your heart on your sleeve — there is something completely disarming about emotions expressed honestly and with a pure intention.

CAPRICORN Don't be surprised if you find yourself talking at great length with precise detail about every aspect of life. While it's not your normal behavior, it is charming.

AQUARIUS Mars puts you in the spotlight, which requires you to lead, so don't hesitate to assume your authority — and have fun marshalling the troops.

PISCES Focus your attention on your career and you could reap pleasantly surprising rewards. I'm not suggesting miracles, but I am implying beneficial results from your efforts. ●

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For More Info

Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2010 by Ralfee Finn

Amin Ahmed's pizzas feature such creative toppings as ginger and sweet potatoes. Chris Duffey

THE CRUELTY-FREE PIZZA ZONE

A vast array of whole-wheat-crusted vegan pizzas sets Pizza Plaza apart.

By Anneli Rufus

Sudan is an East African country bisected by the Nile and wracked by civil wars and ethnically motivated atrocities. Pizza is a cheese-topped flatbread first enjoyed in ancient Greece. What do you get when you combine the two? In northernmost Oakland, you get **Pizza Plaza**, whose Sudanese owner **Amin Ahmed** devised a vegan menu that makes this polka-dotted hole-in-the-wall a hotspot on the international vegan grapevine, drawing out-of-towners from far and wide.

Even Pizza Plaza's vegetarian menu is clever and committed. Sporting eight specialty pizzas, lasagna stuffed with fake ground beef, and crunchy three-bean Caesar, spinach, and mock-chicken salads, it's expansive enough to warm the presumably plaque-free heart of your neighborhood herbivore.

But an additional vegan menu sporting sixteen specialty pizzas that also lets customers create their own custom pizzas and calzones by mixing and matching more than forty different possible toppings — including many different types of fake meat and vegan cheese and oddities such as kidney beans, ginger, sweet potatoes, and peas — is a rarity indeed, even in the vegan-friendly East Bay.

The fact that Ahmed uses only whole-wheat crust — he knows a lot about yeasted doughs "because in Sudan, people make their breads at home every day," he said — is an extra plus.

He walks the walk. He's been a vegetarian nearly all his life.

"I consider this a very personal issue, but I don't like dealing with meat. Vegetarianism is not very common in Sudan but meat prices are very high there, which is why there are lots of vegetarian options," he said. A stint in India where he earned a university degree in microbiology expanded his familiarity with vegetarian cuisine. In 2000, Ahmed arrived in the Bay Area looking for work.

"Like most immigrants, I couldn't find a job involving my degree," he said. Starting as a pizza delivery driver in San Mateo, he then began working in pizzeria kitchens. In 2006, he bought an extant pizzeria on the Oakland-Berkeley border, promptly nixing all meat from its menu. A Pizza Hut stands one block away almost as a taunt.

At first, Pizza Plaza was just vegetarian. Then Ahmed became fascinated with veganism. Interviewing his vegan customers about which brands and products they liked best and why. As a result of that research, he uses soy-based versions of sausage, salami, and other flesh manufactured by **Yves**, a Canadian founded forerunner in the fake-meat market. He also uses 100-percent dairy- and gluten-free Teese Vegan Cheese from the award-winning **Chicago Soydairy**.

On a vegan specialty pizza such as the "Meatza," three different faux meats taste and feel almost real and refreshingly less greasy than authentic meats. Mozzarella-style Teese looks and tastes convincing, for a vegan cheese, but isn't nearly as rich and stretchy as the real deal. Chopped garlic brightens an otherwise simple marinara sauce. The full effect is hearty and satisfying, with the added spike of self-satisfaction that comes from eating ostensibly healthier versions of what otherwise would be guilty pleasures. (Speaking of which, Pizza Plaza also offers vegan cheesecake, vegan doughnuts, vegan ice cream, and a delectably rich, dark, thickly frosted vegan chocolate cake that could well hold its own against its buttery counterparts.)

Vegetarian pizzas such as the "Ana Lova," topped with avocado, artichoke hearts, onion, and sun-dried tomatoes, feature actual stretchy mozzarella. Like Ahmed's vegan pizzas, these are filling yet feel pure, clean, and salubrious. Evoking neither super-thin-crusted exotic Gourmet Ghetto-style pizzas nor fatten-me-now mass market pizzas, they occupy a separate forthright, unpretentious planet in the pizza universe.

Among the most popular toppings on the custom pizza list are sweet potatoes and fresh ginger — "for health reasons," Ahmed said. How does ginger fare on a pizza? We tried it so that you can decide whether or not to. Although dissonant at first, ginger's bite quickly begins resonating, in waves, across the mouth in a way that is not biologically revolting. If we welcome this bite against bland rice or noodles in Asian cuisines and against wheat flour in gingerbread, why not welcome it against bland pizza crust? Other assertive "hot" flavors such as chile pepper feel perfectly natural on pizzas. Is the idea that ginger does not belong on pizza a mere cultural construct?

Sweet potato, too, is startlingly pizza-friendly: mild-on-mild, starch-on-starch, sweet yet not implacably so. If you like pineapple on pizza, try this.

Peas and kidney beans fail, however, feeling — slice after slice — like stowaways from curry, chili, and side dishes made with frozen carrot cubes. Their stark legume-ness clashes catastrophically with tomato sauce, refusing to back down. Experiment all you like, but savor safe bets such as spinach, olives, and pine nuts.

Pizza Plaza
6211 Shattuck Ave., Oakland
510-420-1433 or VeganPlaza.com
Cash, Discover, Visa, and MasterCard
Hours: Sun.-Thu. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon. closed
Reservations accepted for large groups.

Sample Menu

Large Vegan Pizza	$23.55
Large Vegetarian Pizza	$18.55
Lasagna (serves two)	$13.95
Large Salad	$6.55
Vegan Chocolate Cake	$3.95

With its bright lights, Shattuck Avenue-facing storefront, and jangly retro-rock radio, Pizza Plaza's tiny space is not elegant. It's not even homey, but almost. Fun touches such as pink-flowered serving plates and a wall-size vintage Thomas Brothers map of the greater East Bay, not to mention the eat-for-health ethos of the place, evince care. That the ringtone of the restaurant's phone sounds like a parakeet and the plates bear the puzzling words *Camilia Beauty* in flowing script lend this place a funkiness that can't be faked.

Although *Pizza Plaza* offers widespread free delivery from the Oakland waterfront to East Oakland to Albany, a potential downside is that this delivery can take a very long time, because Ahmed does it all himself. Struggling in a down economy, he does everything at Pizza Plaza. So if he has to make several deliveries in one trip, the last one might arrive late. If customers are eating in the restaurant and a delivery call comes in, Ahmed must wait until they depart before he can make the delivery, locking the door but leaving the "OPEN" sign on.

He'll be back.

To share this story, type: ebx.sh/pizzaplaza

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T.S. No. [illegible] Loan No. [illegible] APN: [illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE A copy of California Civil Code Section 2923.54 (SB 7) declaration is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 2/8/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Krzysztof Oblacki, a single man Duly Appointed Trustee: The Wolf Firm, A Law Corporation Recorded 02/15/2006 as Instrument No. [illegible] of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, Date of Sale: [illegible] Place of Sale: At the Fallon Street emergency exit of the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St. Oakland, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $[illegible] estimated Street Address or other common designation of real property: 4 Admiral Drive #B235 Emeryville, CA 94608 A.P.N.: [illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Date: 1/3/2011 The Wolf Firm, A Law Corporation 2955 Main Street, 2nd Floor Irvine, California 92614 (949) 720-9200 Foreclosure Dept. Fax (949) 608-0130 Sale Information Only: (714) 573-1965 Renee C. Murray Foreclosure Manager [illegible] DECLARATION TO NOTICE OF SALE AS REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE SECTION 2923.54 [illegible] The mortgage loan servicer ( ) has, ( ) has not (check one) obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date this Notice of Sale is filed. ( ) The timeframe for giving notice of sale as specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 ( ) does not (check one) apply pursuant to Section 2923.52 or 2923.55. Lori Gilmore Signature: Lori Gilmore Print Your Name: [illegible] Reporting Supervisor Print Your Title SunTrust Mortgage Inc. [illegible] 1/12, 1/19, 01/26/2011

RESTAURANTS & CAFES

This guide only lists restaurants recommended by Express food critics. You can find complete reviews for all of these restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print listings rotate regularly as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood, cuisine, price and more. Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $—up to $10 per person. $$—$10-$25. $$$—$25-$50. $$$$—more than $50.

ALAMEDA

[illegible] 2398 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$$

Burma Superstar 1345 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-6200 (Southeast Asian) $$

[illegible] 2504 Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-521-8500 (Vietnamese) $-$$

[illegible] 2321 Main St., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Barbecue) $$

Flavors of India 1511 Park St., Alameda, 510-527-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani)

Forbidden Island 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332 (Bars & Clubs/Eclectic/Exotic/Hawaiian/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] 1515 Park St., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Cuban) $$

The [illegible] 1312 Park St., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Tapas/Wine Bars) $

La Piñata 1440 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-1111 (Mexican) $$

[illegible] Table 2218 A Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

The [illegible] 1400 Webster St., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Brewpub/English/Irish/New Zealander/Organic/Sustainable) $

Ole's Waffle Shop 1507 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-9191 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

Pappo 2320 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-337-9100 (California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] Board 2512 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Deli) $

Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300 (German/Austrian) $$

Sushi King 1444 Park St., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Yume Sushi 1428 Park St., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Zen 2305 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-[illegible] (Eclectic/Exotic/Asian Fusion/Chinese/Barbeque/Bakery/Japanese/Sushi/Korean/Pizza/Seafood/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY-SOLANO

[illegible] on Solano 1409 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

Ajanta 1888 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-4373 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1591 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-8185 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Bua Luang 1166 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-527-8288 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] 1648 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $$

[illegible] Bakery & Cafe 841 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-524-1734 (Bakery/American) $$

Cafe Raj 1158 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-524-5648 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] 1340 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-[illegible] (Breakfast/Brunch/Coffeehouses/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] Village 1336 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-2285 (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-[illegible] (Mexican/Southwestern) $-$$

Fatapple's 7525 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3433 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Fonda 1501A Solano Ave., Albany, 510-559-9006 (Mexican/Latin/Organic/Sustainable/South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

[illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-524-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $

The [illegible] 900 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $

[illegible] Organic Kitchen [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-[illegible] (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 1485 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-[illegible] (Nepalese) $$

Kensington Circus Pub 389 Colusa Ave., Kensington, 510-524-8864 (English/Irish/Bars & Clubs) $$

[illegible] 1808 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-[illegible] (Italian/Pizza) $$

Koto [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1677 (Chinese) $$

Lalime's 1329 Gilman St., Albany, 510-527-9838 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] Pizza [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-[illegible] (Pizza)

[illegible] Thai Kitchen 1495 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-558-[illegible] (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Southern/Soul Food/Thai/Vietnamese) $

Meal Ticket 1235 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-6328 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 1568 [illegible] Ave., Kensington, 510-525-1350 (French/Organic/Sustainable/California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Renee's Place 1511 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-2330 (Chinese) $$

Rivoli 1539 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2542 (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 1080 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Japanese) $$

Sam's Log Cabin 945 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-558-0494 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-[illegible] (Korean) $$

[illegible] 577 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-525-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai) $$

Vanessa's Bistro 1715 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-8300 (Tapas/Small Plates/Vietnamese) $$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950 (Pizza) $-$$

Zaki Kabob House 1101 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-527-5452 (Middle Eastern) $

ANTIOCH, PITTSBURG & BRENTWOOD

Kinder's [illegible] 5411 Lone Tree Way #100, Brentwood, 925-308-7997 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 5937 Lone Tree Way, Brentwood, 925-634-[illegible] (Hawaiian) $

Mac's Old House [illegible] 18th St., Antioch, 925-[illegible] (American/Italian/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$

BERKELEY DOWNTOWN

[illegible] Fresh Food 2122 [illegible], Berkeley, 510-548-2122 (American/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Berkeley Saturday Farmers Market, Berkeley, 510-830-9296 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen 2261 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6900 (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

[illegible] 2118 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-4836 (Pizza) $

Au Coquelet Cafe 2000 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-0433 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Coffeehouses/Breakfast/Brunch/Eclectic/Exotic) $

[illegible] Thai Kitchen 1458 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible] (Thai/Burmese)

Beckett's 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-1790 (American/English/Irish/Bars & Clubs) $$

[illegible] Lounge 2128 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-[illegible] (Wine Bar/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Biryani House 2011 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $

Bistro Liaison 1849 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2155 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] Cafe 2101 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-[illegible] (Southern/Soul Food) $

[illegible] 1820 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Tibetan) $-$$

[illegible] 1799 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible] (Italian) $$-$$$

La [illegible] 2164 Center St., Berkeley, 510-704-8858 (Mexican) $

[illegible] Cafe [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1430 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

[illegible] 1998 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Middle Eastern) $

[illegible] [illegible], Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Dessert/Ice Cream/Bakery/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-[illegible] (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] Deli 2238 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-9544 (Deli) $

[illegible] 1950 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American)

[illegible] [illegible] Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] 2200 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Organic/Sustainable/American) $$

[illegible] 2105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Italian) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-[illegible] (Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] [illegible] Way, Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible] (Deli) $

Henry's Berkeley Bistro & Grille 2600 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$

Herbivore 2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1675 (Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$

International House 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-9490 (Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] [illegible] Milvia St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American/Barbecue) $$

Jayakarta 2026 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-9884 (Southeast Asian) $-$$

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277 (Brewpub/Pizza/Bars & Clubs) $$

Long Life Vegi House 2129 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6072 (Chinese/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] [illegible] Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Barbecue) $-$$

[illegible] Lounge 2220 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-2992 (American) $

The [illegible] 1150 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $

[illegible] International Bakery Cafe [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American/Bakery) $$

[illegible] Restaurant 2398 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Tibetan/Indian/Pakistani) $$

La Note 2377 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1535 (Breakfast/Brunch/French) $-$$

Oscar's 1890 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2144 (American/Diner) $

Pie in the Sky 2123 Center St., Berkeley, 510-845-[illegible] (Pizza) $

[illegible] [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

[illegible] [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $

Raw Energy 2050 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-665-9464 (Vegetarian/Vegan/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $

Razan's Organic Kitchen 2119 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-486-0449 (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Revival Bar & Kitchen 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-9950 (American/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Bars & Clubs) $$$

San Francisco Soup Company [illegible] Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Cafe [illegible] Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible] (Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American) $-$$

[illegible] Cafe [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American/California Cuisine/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Taste of the Himalayas [illegible] Shattuck Ave. Suite A, Berkeley, 510-849-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Thai Delight Cuisine 1700 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-0611 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Top Dog [illegible] Center St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Kitchen [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Middle Eastern) $$

Udupi Palace 1901 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6600 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Burgers/Sandwiches/Barbecue/Mexican/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$$

Zatar 1981 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1981 (California Cuisine/Greek/Eclectic/Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

Full Reviews Online

About 500 reviews searchable by food, region, and price at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

BERKELEY NORTH

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2827 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cafe Gratitude 1730 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 415-824-4652 ext. 3 (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-[illegible] $-$$

César 1515 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0222 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Cha Am 1543 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-9664 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Cha-Ya 1686 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-1213 (Japanese/Sushi/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

The Cheese Board Pizza Collective 1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3055 (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave. Suite C, Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Italian/Dessert/Ice Cream/Wine Bar) $$

Corso 1788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8004 (Italian) $$$

[illegible] Cafe [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani/Tibetan) $-$$

Fatapple's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way

Berkeley, 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Gioia Pizzeria 1586 Hopkins St., Berkeley, 510-528-4692 (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

Gregoire 2109 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-883-1893 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Guerilla Cafe 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-2233 (Coffeehouses/Organic/Sustainable/Breakfast/Brunch) $

Imperial Tea Court 1511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-8888 (Chinese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

The [illegible] [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] Express 1823 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Vegetarian/Vegan/American) $

[illegible] Coffee [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Coffeehouses) $

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-3354 (Deli/Kosher/Halal/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Top Dog 1503 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1241 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] [illegible] Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] [illegible] Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-5300 (American) $

BERKELEY SOUTH

[illegible] [illegible] Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Berkeley Farmers Market, Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible] (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] of India [illegible] Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-849-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (South American) $$

[illegible] 2556 Telegraph Ave., 2nd Floor, Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Caribbean) $$

La [illegible] [illegible] College Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-[illegible] (Mexican) $

[illegible] of India [illegible] College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Holy Land [illegible] College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-[illegible] (Middle Eastern) $

Ici 2948 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-[illegible] (Bakery/California Cuisine/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Kirala 2100 Ward St., Berkeley, 510-549-3486 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Locanda da Eva [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Mexican/Middle Eastern/Pizza/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] [illegible] College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Greek/Turkish/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Norikonoko 2556 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1274 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Paragon Bar & Cafe 50 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8585 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] Restaurant and Catering

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Mount Everest Restaurant
2598 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1892. Friendly neighborhood hangout serves a few Nepali specialties as well as several Indian standards, some of them delectable, others on the so-so side. Opt for the hot, juicy momos, the crunchy samosas, the smoky chicken chhoila, the richly spiced cauliflower-potato aloo gobi, and bhatura, a pillowy fried bread served with spicy garbanzos. The honey-drizzled naan makes a fine dessert. Beer and wine but uninspiring high-ceilinged industrial storefront setting. $$

Sunny Side Cafe
2136 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-845-9900. Helming the kitchen is scientifically trained, self-described "Eco-Chef" Aaron French, who traveled the world studying fragile ecosystems before becoming a full-time chef at the original Sunny Side on Solano Avenue. The Berkeley restaurant opened in 2009 offering breakfast, brunch, and lunch with an eye to seasonality and sustainability. Among a wide range of sandwiches, egg dishes, and other daytime-dining classics, spotlights include crispy-outside home fries and many versions of eggs Benedict, topped with house-made Hollandaise. French's signature dish is the Alameda: ham (or other savory ingredients) sandwiched between two French-toast slices, topped with two eggs, Hollandaise, and a balsamic reduction. $$

Trader Vic's
9 Anchor Dr., Emeryville, 510-653-3400. After an extensive five-month renovation, the granddaddy of all tiki bars has adopted a more casual 21st century attitude, with a larger lounge area, more intimate and less starched napery, and a lighter, spicier menu. Some of the food is still deep-fried and heavily sauced, but classics like the ham and Gruyère Cheese Rings and the oyster-spinach Bongo Bongo Soup continue to delight. Best of all, though, are the dazzling tropical cocktails served in a variety of bowls and flagons, especially the sweet, potent 1944 Mai Tai. $$$

Giovanni Restaurant
24[illegible]k Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. Serving classic Italian fare in the serene comfortable earth-toned, softly glowing space since 1961. Giovanni is one of the last still-standing Berkeley restaurants enlivening the childhood memories of local folks aged fifty-plus. The ravioli is still made in the exact same way by the exact same hands: sous chef Juan Sanchez has been doing it for forty years. Original owner Giovanni [illegible] sold the place in 1987, then bought it back in 2010. Pasta, pizza, sandwiches, and other favorites — the Italian standbys that are programmed into the sensory hard drive of most anyone who grew up in Europe or North America — are served in generous portions, with fabulous soft-centered, steaming-hot, herb-speckled, house-made focaccia on the side. If you know what's good for you, order the tiramisu. $$

Scolari's Good Eats
[illegible] Alameda, 510-523-2402. This downtown Alameda takeout joint boasts the same [illegible] as the gourmet street carts and grocery-store deli counters that have blossomed since the economy [illegible]. The culinary is classic American fast food — burgers, hot dogs, breakfast sandwiches — but the ingredients are seasonal and organic, the execution is imaginative and satisfying, and the daily specials include such delights as Dungeness crab with garlic butter, split-pea soup with crispy pork belly, and a New Jersey stromboli chaled up with pumpkin, kale, and cashews. The cheerful, closet-size space has six stools and a few sidewalk tables, or enjoy your takeout at the Lucky 13 saloon next door. $$

No Worries
1442 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-444-4486. One hundred percent vegan Filipino food, such as that served at No Worries, is highly anomalous, a "true" Pinoy version of a cuisine that in its natural habitat is about 95 percent meat. Thus No Worries' soy-pork menudo and soy-beef lumpia might disconcert those who have been immersed in the real Pinoy McCoy. Born in the Philippines but raised in Oakland, chef/owner Jay-Ar [illegible] Pugao creates meatless versions of dishes his mother used to make: [illegible], sinigang, [illegible], kare-kare, and more. Served in a hip but off-puttingly cavernous setting, these entrées are hearty, filling, un-greasy, and most are rich in fake meat manufactured by world-class [illegible] [illegible]. $

2922 Domingo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2538 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$
Shen Hua 2914 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1777 (Chinese) $-$$
Smokehouse 2915 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3640 (American) $
Summer Kitchen Bake Shop 2944 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-8530 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Bakery) $$
Sweet Adeline Bakeshop 3350 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-595-3381 (Bakery/Coffeehouses) $-$$
A Taste of Africa 3015 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-617-0504 (African/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
top dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-5967 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 3311 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-848-3455 (Southeast Asian/Thai [illegible]) $

BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

900 Grayson 900 Grayson St., Berkeley, 510-704-9900 (California Cuisine) $$
Anchalee 1094 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-848-4015 (Thai/Burmese) $$
Arizmendi Bakery and Pizzeria 4301 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-547-0550 (Bakery/Pizza/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Betty's Oceanview Diner 1807 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-644-3230 (American/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$
The Bread Workshop 1308 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8348 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $
Brennan's [illegible] 720 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-0960 (American) $
Bucci's 6121 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-547-4725 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Cafe [illegible] 1298 65th St., Emeryville, 510-655-2[illegible] (Breakfast/Brunch/American/Coffeehouses)
Cafe Fanny 1603 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-5447 (Coffeehouses/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$
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New Zealand Floral

Doesn't rest on its laurels

I was heading back home to New Zealand for two weeks and instead of writing this column before I left, I thought how very nice it would be to taste some Kiwi wines right where they were born. Of course, everyone saw my excuse. It was pure and simple procrastination. As one old mate said, in the kindest possible way, "Jody, you're still that nineteen-year-old Uni student constantly asking for essay extensions!"

But my procrastination resulted in hours of extra work, as I searched the wine aisles of every supermarket along the coast. One might think it'd be easy to find three Kiwi whites under $10 that are sold both in the East Bay and in New Zealand. Impossible. The exchange rate, which now favors New Zealand, and the fact that many companies re-brand their wine for American tastes meant I could barely scrape up three bottles after searching stores the length of the North Island, from Auckland to Wellington. Meanwhile, back in Oakland, my long-suffering husband put in loads of calls to East Bay stores.

And that's how I found myself in the Auckland apartment of my friends Kerry and Reece doing a Kiwi wine tasting, hours before my plane left for the United States.

First up was a **Dashwood 2010 Sauvignon Blanc** from Marlborough, which can be bought at **Beverages & More** (multiple East Bay locations) for $9.99. The wine had been recommended by New Zealand's *Cuisine* magazine, people who know what they are doing, Reece promised. The bottle says it should taste of passionfruit and lime; there is a lot of lime, but I would have loved to taste and smell more passionfruit. "It won't stand a lot of scrutiny," said Reece, "but good enough." We agreed it would suit a summery barbecue, including lamb.

Next was **Monkey Bay 2010 Sauvignon Blanc** from Hawkes Bay. With the exchange fluctuating, Monkey Bay can be purchased in the East Bay from BevMo and large supermarkets for under $10 when it's on sale. We found it pleasantly citrusy, but a lot thinner than the Dashwood, which would trump it every time. There was no discernible scent to it. Reece said it was "doing what it was supposed to, but not that interesting."

Finally came the **Villa Maria 2009 Riesling** from Marlborough, which can be bought for $9.99 from Costco in Richmond (4801 Central Ave.). "I usually don't like Rieslings," Reece said. "But this is the go." No better recommendation from a Kiwi guy who knows his wines. Kerry found some floral, but not as much as you would expect from a Riesling. She said it was unusual enough to pair with fish and crayfish.

In the end, we were back and forth about first place. After being open to the air a few minutes longer, the Dashwood proved more complex. But, ultimately, the Riesling was the most different and surprising. Monkey Bay took third place.

— *Jody Brettkelly*

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Chopan Kabob 2050 Monument Blvd., Concord, 925-686-5488. (Afghan/Persian) $

El [illegible] 2265 Morello Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-671-0132. ([illegible]) $$

Flora's Gyros and Hot Dogs 240 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, 925-687-6484. (Greek/Turkish) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 2227 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill, 925-798-3333. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 1800 Meats Industrial Way, Concord, 925-685-8200. (Barbecue/Deli) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 845 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill, (925) 681-3151. (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

La Piñata 2364 Taos Pass Rd., Concord, 925-609-9199. (Mexican) $$

Luna [illegible] 2111 Willow Pass Rd., #20 B, Concord, 925-691-4080. (Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] Eatery & Wine Bar 1922 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill, 925-944-0400. (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

Las [illegible] 2000 Regent Dr., Concord, 925-685-7501. (Mexican) $

Taqueria El Rambo 186 Oak Grove, Concord, 925-609-9878. (Mexican) $

Taqueria Los Toros 2995 Monument Blvd., Suite D, Concord, 925-682-7130. (Mexican) $

[illegible] 2151 Salvio St., Ste. L, Concord, 925-521-9017. (Nepali) $$-$$$

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[illegible] 10390 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-525-6850. (Mexican) $

The Dead Fish 20050 San Pablo Ave., Crockett, 510-787-3323. (American/Seafood) $$$-$$$$

Hidden City Cafe 109 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-232-4396. (American/California Cuisine) $$

Hotel Mac 50 Washington Avenue, Richmond, 510-233-0576. (American) $$$

The Junket 235 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-524-4822. (Deli/Gourmet/American/Coffeehouse) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 3906 San Pablo Ave., Suite E, Hercules, 510-724-2307. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Krung Thep 11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-0116. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Little Angie's 6435 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-6577. (Steak House) $$-$$$

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El Tapatio 501 23rd St., Richmond, 510-215-6093. (Mexican) $

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Chaat Cafe 2954 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-796-3400. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

[illegible] 33330 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City, 510-471-8387. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] Restaurant 3906 Washington Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible]. (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $-$$

[illegible] 40703 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-440-1581. (Belgian/Barbecue/Deli) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 1908 Decoto Rd., Union City, (510) 324-8838. (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

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Little Sichuan Gourmet 34406 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-666-9585. (Chinese) $

Lovely Sweets and Snacks 41031 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-657-3402. (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] Grill 39158 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont, 510-797-7289. (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] 5208 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-797-7000. (California Cuisine/Indian) $$$

[illegible] Cafe & Gourmet Plaza 40900 Fremont Blvd., #H, Fremont, 510-[illegible]. (Indian/Pakistani/Pizza) $

[illegible] 1703 Decoto Rd., Union City,

EDUCATION&CAREERS

SPECIAL EDITION

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John Oram, director and principal scientist at CW Labs, inspects marijuana samples. Stephen Loewinsohn

THE GREEN RUSH

The business of medical cannabis is definitely an East Bay growth industry in 2011.

By David Downs

Situated in an undisclosed warehouse in Oakland, the **Bhang Chocolate Company** factory seduces the senses with the smell of high-quality chocolate and highly potent ganja. As Snoop Dogg plays from the nearby stereo, Bhang founder **Scott Van Rixel** supervises an employee slathering viscous dark goo into cooling trays. The employee tempers Bhang's hit medical cannabis chocolate bars, which won first place in the *San Francisco* **Medical Cannabis Competition** in November. The win catapulted Bhang and Van Rixel into the spotlight and sent his nascent East Bay business into overdrive.

Entrepreneurs view the cannabis industry jobs outlook as rather sunny in 2011 — with room in the market for professional cultivators and dispensary staff. An even brighter outlook exists even pot's support market, whether it's edibles factories ramping up, hydroponics stores doing brisk business, laboratories adding staff and capital equipment, and professional services like lawyers, accountants and lobbyists, the last of which *Esquire* named as one the top ten "New Jobs for Men." Even the staid insurance business is seeing a cannabump, said **Richard Lee**, founder of **Oaksterdam University**, one of the largest, most well-known weed colleges in the country.

Oaksterdam's first class of the year is sold out, and half the students are out-of-state enrollees who're come to the East Bay to learn to cultivate, bake edibles, and study the fast-changing world of cannabis law. Growing remains a student favorite, but Oaksterdam requires students to take prerequisites on the politics and legal issues of dope "before they can take the fun classes," Lee said. "Nobody knows what's going on with the law, not even the lawyers and the politicians, because there's so many different conflicting ones, it's changing, and everybody has their opinion."

Oaksterdam tries to offer a neutral viewpoint on the now-legitimate industry. "The business is getting to be more about what are reasonable regulations and reasonable taxes, not just, can you do it at all? It's getting more complex," said Lee.

Consequently, cannabis lobbyists are in high demand throughout the state, where a patchwork of regulations and enforcement range from outright bans and raids in San Luis Obispo and Santa Clara counties to taxation and environmental regulations in Alameda, San Francisco and Humboldt counties. Cannabis lobbying and consultancy firm **CannBe** stayed very busy in 2010 and is seeing very high demand for their services in 2011, said founder **Stephen DeAngelo**, also the head of Oakland's **Harborside Health Center**, among the largest dispensaries in the nation. CannBe moves into Arizona, the fifteenth medical cannabis state in 2011, where it will assist locals attempting to win one of 120 or so coveted dispensary permits, part of a new billion-dollar industry there. "Arizona has little to no knowledge of how to operate a medical marijuana industry," he said.

CannBe is a bright spot in a turbulent year for Harborside, as new taxation from the city and a federal audit harshed its mellow. Oakland's new tax rate means much-needed capital improvements like replanting Harborside's asphalt parking lot with "grassphalt" and facade repainting won't get done. Harborside has also had to scale back on patient services. But as a whole, the Bay Area dispensary outlook seems rosy, Lee said.

San Francisco dispensary **SPARC** is undergoing growing pains as it tries to pace demand, said founder **Erich Pearson**. The thirty-employee dispensary gets an average of fifty new patients per day. San Francisco has no set limit on the number of clinics it may have, and more permits are in the works. Richmond, Berkeley and Oakland are also all set to add dispensaries in 2011 and more are cropping up across the state, despite harsh crackdowns outside of the Bay Area. "We've had lots of good reports from students getting jobs and starting businesses. Somebody came

Stephen Loewinsohn

Bhang's medical cannabis chocolate has won first place in the San Francisco Medical Cannabis Competition

up to me at the New Year's Fritmas show at the Fox saying they were a student who started a dispensary in Santa Barbara, and wanted to thank me," Lee said.

Oaksterdam has also added cooking classes and a kitchen in response to demand for edibles training. The field is modernizing fast, from the stereotypical pot brownie to the artisanal Whole Foods-quality delicacy, and Bhang's Van Rixel. He plans to grow his company by seven people to twelve by June this year. "I'm excited. Our members have increased every single week. We haven't even scratched the surface of this industry. We couldn't take market share faster than what it's growing. There's room for everybody," Van Rixel said. He's looking for people with "culinary expertise" to help build out his gourmet chocolate line in 2011 as well as staff to simply stuff packages. "We pay better than your average chocolate company," he said.

Bhang chocolate expands alongside its partners in testing, **CW Analytical Laboratories**, situated adjacent to the Bhang factory. Principal scientist and CW founder **John Oram** said the lab hopes to grow with Bhang, and double in size from six to twelve, while taking on more clients. Oram is looking for applicants with at least a bachelor's, if not a master's degree, in a related science to complement staff chemists and mycologists. CW Labs is also hiring eight to ten salespeople.

Fellow lab **Steep Hill**, also in Oakland, is undergoing rapid growth in 2011, opening up a Los Angeles office and adding staff not only to test local dispensary products for potency and safety, but to certify grows for safety as well as run its new **SafeCannabis** program. "We're in the third year of the start-up phase, which is usually the big one," said Steep Hill co-founder **Addison DeMoura**.

Even as testing takes hold at legal dispensaries in the Bay Area, Sacramento, and Los Angeles, quasi-legal dispensaries are fighting for a right to exist. **Omar Figueroa**, founder of the **Cannabis Law Institute**, said the institute's accredited seminars routinely sell out as lawyers specialize in the field, and the institute plans its next seminar in San Francisco. Qualified tax lawyers are also in high demand, as the IRS appears to be taking a very close look at dispensaries, said San Francisco tax attorney **Henry Wykowski**.

The quasi-legal status of medical cannabis has created a transition zone where new markets can emerge, but there's a dark side too. Medical pot industry members face arrest, prosecution, and jail time under federal law. Even though the Obama administration issued a memo ordering US attorneys to not focus resources on legitimate medical cannabis concerns, the **Drug Enforcement Administration** continues to enforce federal law in the state. State police get in on it, too. In Santa Clara County in December, a narcotics task force used $750,000 in methamphetamine abatement funds from the federal government to sweep up San Jose medical cannabis delivery services, DeAngelo said.

It's no surprise, then, to hear that local and state police are also hiring in 2011, promising relatively steady work, full benefits, and pension. California police will write more than an estimated 60,000 pot tickets and arrest more than 17,000 growers and dealers in 2011.

As pot turns from a black market to a white one, a lot of unsavory folks are still in it and attracted to it. One industry employee told the *Express* she went to Oaksterdam University, **UniCann**, and took one day of class at the **Cannabis Training University**, but her subsequent jobs at a large nursery and dispensary in Redding and at a company selling cone joints and tinctures in Oakland both fizzled. The nursery laid her off without paying, and the joints business owner paid under the table and wanted to meet in a bar. "I think these schools don't tell the truth about the seamy side of the business," she said. "I feel that the BS factor in this industry is huge. I have met some great people in my time but there are some sharks out there."

But Lee said it's still better than it's ever been. "You've got to look back," he said. "As long as I've been in this and after all we've done, some days it's two steps forward and one back, but we're moving the right way. Most of this industry is already there, we're just taking it from underground to above ground. There's a lot of opportunities for people who have the business and political skills and as well as the horticultural skills." ●

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by Amanda Gerrie

Most of us hate the job search. For the shy or introverted it can feel excruciating.

Job searching brings out feelings of self-doubt and questions our abilities. Many of us become procrastinators, entertaining ourselves with other less threatening or more fun tasks. The approach I've taken with my clients who resist the job search has been to help build their job search on activities that they enjoy rather than on tasks that feel like torment. 75% of jobs today are found through informal contacts. So have fun! Here are some things that have worked for my clients.

Six ways to job search and have fun at the same time

1. **Follow the Money:** If you pick up the paper, the SF Business Times, Fast Company or Wired you will read about companies expanding their office space, receiving venture capital dollars, or becoming recipients of grant dollars. Where there's expansion there usually are jobs. Make a cold contact before the openings are posted.
2. **Brand Loyalty:** Look at the brands you love and the people that lead those companies. If you're an avid Clif Bar fan and run triathlons then maybe you should look at opportunities with Clif Bar. If you are a fan of Virgin America and David Cush, the President and CEO, then attend a luncheon where he's speaking and say hello at the buffet.
3. **Have Fun:** Job leads are like people, they are everywhere! I've had clients find out about unannounced openings while at the dog park, the play ground, or book club. Just get out there and be curious and be ready to talk about what you're looking for in a sharp 30-second pitch.
4. **Network Outside Your Field:** If you're a human resources generalist, skip the human resources networking luncheon and go to sector specific events in industries you're interested in. Other unemployed Human Resources managers can't hire you, but the new Vice President at Motorola might!
5. **Enter Through the Back Door:** For those who really really really hate interviewing, entering through the back door of an organization is the way to go. Prove yourself by volunteering, taking on pro-bono work, or temping. You can show them what a valuable asset you are and generally by-pass the formality of interviews when openings occur.
6. **Turn Off the Computer(!):** Most job seekers are spending an increasing amount of time meandering online without a plan. Instead, use that time strategically to get job leads sent automatically to you via Indeed. Use the net to research companies and people. Use it to connect to other people via social networks. 73% of 18-34 year olds found their last job through a social network. That doesn't mean they sent out a resume to a friend of friend and bang! They have a job. It means they used the social network to build meaningful relationships and gain strategic introductions.

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Richmond Build has placed at least 90 percent of its graduates in jobs that pay at least $17 an hour.

REDEFINING GREEN JOBS

The construction industry collapse has resulted in fewer green jobs than expected as cities scramble to attract eco-friendly employers

By Robert Gammon

Cities, states, and the federal government have spent billions in the past few years trying to create green jobs and train workers for them. But the foreclosure crisis and the continuing economic downturn have resulted in far fewer green jobs than politicians and environmentalists had hoped. Moreover, many of the jobs available have been snatched up by highly skilled, blue-collar workers sidelined by the housing collapse, leaving less-experienced trainees still unemployed.

These disappointing developments in the green jobs market, often viewed as the next savior of the California economy, are prompting cities in the East Bay and around the state to scramble to attract eco-friendly employers and help them prosper. At the same time, some local experts are finding hope in a new definition of what is a green job, expanding its meaning beyond simply installing solar panels or weatherizing your home.

A preliminary study published by **UC Berkeley** researchers in December and funded by the **California Public Utilities Commission** painted a bleak picture of the state's green jobs prospects through 2020. The study, "Projecting Future Labor Demand and Supply in Energy Efficiency, Distributed Generation and Demand Response in the Context of California's Jobless Recovery," estimated that the state will produce more than 211,000 new green jobs this decade. The report also noted that there were 14,248 more green jobs in 2010 in California than in 2009. But most of those jobs were grabbed by unemployed construction workers, while recent graduates of the state's 550-plus green jobs training programs have had trouble even scoring interviews.

"The building and construction industries have been affected by the recession far more than other occupations, with unemployment rates reaching 30 percent," stated the report, which is scheduled to be finalized next month. "At present, there are a significant number of unemployed and underemployed skilled workers in these industries that employers are likely to draw from before hiring new inexperienced trainees. In all sectors, this pool of unemployed workers is likely to exceed the number of new jobs created at least until 2020."

Julie Sinai, chair of the **East Bay Green Corridor Policy Committee**, said the UC Berkeley report reflects the frustration that green job trainees have been experiencing. "Until there's more job creation, we're training a lot of people for jobs that don't exist," said Sinai, who is also Berkeley Mayor **Tom Bates**' chief of staff. "It's because a lot of people who do home construction or commercial building construction have transitioned into energy-efficiency work."

But that's not to say there are no green jobs at all — just that they're tough to get. San Mateo-based **Solar City** currently has dozens of positions available, and plans to double its workforce from 1,000 to 2,000 this year, said **Juan Aguayo**, director of employee relations. The company's growth has skyrocketed recently. It now has more than 10,000 residential, commercial, and government customers, and last week moved to new headquarters more than twice as large as its old one. The secret to Solar City's success appears to be its customer-friendly financing plan that allows cash-strapped property owners to install solar panels without putting any money down. "The lease-option has really sparked a lot of interest for us," Aguayo explained.

Still, Solar City is being swamped with job applicants — up to three hundred per position. And the pool of prospective employees includes a lot of jobless construction workers who require very little training to become solar-panel installers or energy-efficiency auditors. "We're getting a big response," Aguayo said. "There are a lot of people out there who are unemployed."

Yet even with the wave of construction workers flooding the green jobs market, the East Bay is still home to numerous training programs thanks to the federal stimulus package and state renewable energy funding. **Rising Sun Energy Center** of Berkeley plans to continue

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THE KEY TO EFFECTIVE INTERVIEWING

by
Anne Sparks

The key to reducing stress and becoming more effective in a job interview lies in research and preparation. Here are the five things you can do to increase your effectiveness, reduce your anxiety and give yourself a bit of control over the process.

5 Steps to a Successful Interview:

1. Research the company. Be sure to find out all you can about the company or organization. Read their website, look at articles on Google or in the newspaper. Be prepared to impress the interviewer with your knowledge of the company's new products, developments, growth, or even their challenges. Be sure to explain why you admire the company and want to work for them specifically – not just get a job.

2. Review common questions. There are lots of helpful websites that list the common questions interviewers like to ask. Study them and create your best PAR answers (see #4 below). Be prepared for "behavioral" questions that ask how you would have handled a specific situation. Figure out your most dreaded question and design and rehearse a good answer so you won't be blindsided by it.

3. Create Accomplishment Statements. Know why you're qualified for the position, what you think you can bring to them and why they should hire you. Be able to use specific examples of what you've accomplished – describe how you managed a project, designed a program, handled a dispute or solved a problem. Use the accomplishments you have that are relevant to the job opening.

4. Respond with PARs. Go in to the interview having created 4 or 5 good PARs which are the actual examples of your accomplishments. A PAR explains the Problem you had, the Action you took and the Result you got. Learn how to put your accomplishments into succinct and compelling PAR statements.

5. Create your own questions. All interviews should be two way conversations. Think hard about what you want to know about them, and go in with your own set of questions. Be prepared for the standard interview question, "Do you have any questions for us?"

Anne Sparks, M.A. has over 25 years of experience in the career development field and has taught interviewing skills to hundreds of clients both individually and in workshops. Sign up for a one on one session with her to hone your interview skills at the **Progressive Opportunities Career Fair on January 23.**

Progressive Opportunities Career Fair Advertorial

TIPS FOR GREEN JOB SEEKERS

by Leonard Adler

I run Green Jobs Network (GJN), a social enterprise dedicated to connecting people seeking jobs that focus on environmental or social responsibility with jobs and career resources. GJN arose from my personal experience as a job seeker where I discovered that there was a need for more resources and support for people interested in finding jobs consistent with their values.

If you are searching for a job in this sector today there are two key points I'd encourage you to keep in mind

Be Realistic: *While the economy is no longer officially in a recession unemployment remains high and jobs aren't as plentiful as we all want*

Be Optimistic: *The green jobs sector has experienced strong growth and is projected to continue to do so*

In addition, here are five tips to assist you in your search:

1. **Review online job boards.** Green jobs are posted regularly on general-purpose job boards and job boards that are specific to the green economy or a sub-sector of it (such as Careers in Wind from the American Wind Energy Association). You can find a list of such job boards on Green Collar Blog
2. **Network.** It is often cited that many people find jobs via their connections. Examples of ways that green job seekers can expand their network include attending networking events organized by groups such as EcoTuesday and Green Drinks or by participating in the local chapter of a national organization such as Net Impact or the American Solar Energy Society.
3. **Network (the online version).** Websites such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter can serve as platforms for online networking as well as locating job postings. For example GJN runs a 20 000-member group on LinkedIn in which members ask questions share information and post jobs.
4. **Attend events.** A number of different types of events can be relevant for green job seekers. First there are an increasing number of green job fairs and green career programs taking place across the country (such as the upcoming Progressive Opportunities Career Fair on January 23 produced by the *East Bay Express*). Second there are panel programs, conferences and expos that focus on various aspects of the green economy. Attending these events can provide numerous benefits such as increasing your knowledge of topics relevant for your career and meeting representatives from organizations in the green economy — some of which may be hiring (for example the San Francisco Green Festival features hundreds of exhibitors)
5. **Follow the money.** There continues to be private and public sector investment in existing and new enterprises in the green sector. The recipients of these investments can serve as sources of current (and future) job opportunities. A list of news sources that track these funding developments is available on a website I run GreenVC.org.

Green Jobs Network

Leonard Adler is the Founder of Green Jobs Network (www.greenjobs.net). He will be providing in-depth information at a "Tips for Your Green Job Search" session at the **Progressive Opportunities Career Fair on January 23**.

Rising Sun Energy Center contracts with the City of Berkeley and about 80 percent of its graduates find work

its training program contract with the City of Berkeley for at least another twelve months. It also will hire a small number of those trainees once they've graduated. The program also has enjoyed more success than others. About 80 percent of graduates have found full-time part time, or temporary work, or have gone onto other training programs said **Elena Foshay** Green Energy Training Services program manager.

An even bigger success story has been **Richmond Build**, which has placed at least 90 percent of its graduates into jobs paying at least $17 an hour according to the UC Berkeley study. The Richmond Build program has been bolstered by policies established by the City of Richmond. All construction contracts with the city require that employers set aside 25 percent of project work hours for Richmond residents who have graduated from Richmond Build. Mayor **Gayle McLaughlin** also noted that Richmond Build grads are currently installing solar panels on city buildings. "The economy is bad and we want to make sure that the graduates keep getting employed," McLaughlin said. "We certainly think that the ordinance has been a good one."

Of course, once the housing sector recovers and the economy rebounds, then environmental laws that require more urban infill development and green-building standards will produce more green jobs, noted **Ian Kim** director of the green-collar jobs campaign with the **Ella Baker Center** in Oakland. Kim also pointed out that Governor **Jerry Brown** has called for 20 000 new megawatts of renewable energy in California by 2020 which, if met also will be a significant job creator. In addition, the cap-and trade regulations adopted by the **California Air Resources Board** last month should boost renewable energy, component in the state.

In November Berkeley voters also approved a blueprint for a downtown plan that promises to result in more green job trainees getting work. Under the plan, which is expected to be finalized and adopted by the city council later this year downtown developers who construct buildings to green standards using local workers will be able to cut through bureaucratic red-tape and get their projects approved quickly. The council will consider a similar proposal as part of its zoning overhaul of West Berkeley later this month.

Berkeley leaders also hope the changes in West Berkeley will transform the city's once vibrant industrial warehouse zone into a green jobs mecca. But instead of solar-panel installers the city hopes to attract spinoffs from **Lawrence Berkeley Lab**, companies that will create the new eco-friendly technologies of tomorrow. Then once those companies are ready to actually make products Berkeley hopes to partner with Oakland and Richmond to find manufacturing space within the East Bay Green Corridor said Berkeley Mayor Bates. "A lot of it's biotech," he said. "It's not exactly green but it's close."

Bates and others also contend that the definition of green jobs is widening. Environmentally conscious companies that are not normally viewed as providing green jobs actually are doing so they argue. This expanded view for example, would consider a business, restaurant, or market that sells locally grown sustainable food to be a "green" business with green jobs. **Michael Caplan** Berkeley's economic development director says the city considers **Annie's Inc.**, which manufactures organic and natural packaged foods, to be a green addition to Berkeley. Annie's recently announced that it's moving its headquarters into part of the old Clif Bar building in West Berkeley.

Leonard Adler, founder of the **Green Jobs Network**, sees a world of the future in which numerous everyday jobs, not just ones involving renewable energy will be considered "green." Companies that practice a triple bottom line and care about social responsibility in addition to the environment are providing green jobs, too, he argued. "Green doesn't only mean about the environment," he said.

Bates also predicts that socially and environmentally conscious companies will flourish in the progressive East Bay and that over time, the jobs they offer will become accepted as green. "We're seeing more and more businesses that are starting to realize the advantages, especially in an area where we have people who are willing to pay more for doing the right thing," he said. "The market is there. It's about companies adapting to the market."

And if that happens, then the prospects for green jobs may be rosy after all. ●

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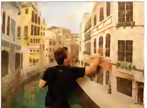

Robert Lindsey says he gets paid more painting murals than he would selling his own work.

THE BUSINESS OF ART

In a tough economic climate, artists and art schools are focusing more on the business side of the creative process

By Ellen Cushing

Sallie Goetsch began writing fiction at age four and grew up wanting to be a novelist. By the time she finished her undergraduate degree in classics, she had completed four or five novels. But instead of launching a career writing her own books, Goetsch decided to help other people write theirs, as a ghostwriter and writing coach.

The El Cerrito resident said she feels creatively fulfilled, and unlike many professional writers, she can pay her bills. "Certainly you have a much more certain income than if you're trying to sell stories to magazines or trying to sell novels," she said. "I'm not saying I'll never go back to writing fiction, but I will say that I don't feel a burning desire to do it."

Goetsch is one of a breed of creative people who are figuring out how to pursue a creative career and still pay their bills. And in a climate that's undeniably hard — and getting harder — artists have no other choice.

Sean Fletcher knows this better than anyone. As both a conceptual and performance artist and a professional financial planner, he has spent his entire adult life balancing — and even combining — his day and night jobs. He described the problem affecting today's would-be artists the way an economist would: as fine arts programs proliferate, "the market is really saturated with artists, so the supply line is flooded." And that drives down the price of art and the living wage for artists. And while making a living as an artist has never been easy, the enduring recession has made it even harder to break into — and stay afloat in — the creative profession. Cash-strapped cities are slashing public art budgets, would-be patrons have less money to throw around on nonessential — and expensive — hobbies like art collection, and grant-giving organizations are facing unprecedented budget cuts.

At the same time, the rapidly escalating cost of education may have hit artists harder than other students. Though tuition at art schools has risen at roughly the same pace as at other types of schools, unlike medical, law, or business schools, art schools can't promise their students a high-paying career or a reliable means of paying off their debt upon graduation. "As education becomes, increasingly, an investment, you do need to think more about what you do with an MFA," said **Glen Helfand**, an art critic who also teaches at both the **San Francisco Art Institute** and the **California College of the Arts.**

But according to **Sydney Metrick**, a Richmond-based psychologist specializing in artists, art schools have historically failed to give their students the tools they need to navigate the workplace after receiving a fine arts degree. "People are coming out of art school woefully unprepared," she said, referring to some of the people she works with. "They might teach you painting or sculpting, but they don't teach you how to be in the business of being a painter and sculptor." But she said it's a two-way street, as many artists are willfully underprepared for life after art school as a matter of principle. "Many artists have an aversion to thinking about their business," she said. "When you ask them who is your target market, they can't answer that."

"PEOPLE ARE COMING OUT OF ART SCHOOL WOEFULLY UNPREPARED," SAID SYDNEY METRICK, A PSYCHOLOGIST. BUT IT'S A TWO-WAY STREET, SHE SAID, AS MANY ARTISTS ARE WILLFULLY UNDERPREPARED AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE.

For his part, Fletcher said that when he was a student at the San Francisco Art Institute, the full scope of the school's career resources consisted of a brown bag speaker series, which drew about three people on any given session and was often canceled because of lack of attendance.

But recently, some schools have been working to bridge the divide, real or imagined, between art and business. Helfand, for example, teaches a graduate seminar at CCA that's intended to give students a sense of how to make a living as an artist, and similar courses have appeared at schools nationwide. Helfand's course is aptly called "The Real World," and it's wildly popular. Helfand invites financial planners, curators, and agents as guest speakers and said he aims to make his students aware of both the resources available to them and the variety of ways one can make a living as an artist.

There's no reliable empirical way to parse out how or if artists make their livings, but at least from an impressionistic standpoint, Helfand, Metrick, and Fletcher said the vast majority of the people they know in the arts supplement their income in other ways. "I know very few artists who make a living completely off their art," Metrick said. "Most of the people that are are doing it in a multifaceted way: they're teaching, they're on the festival circuit." The majority seem to teach, either privately or in a high-school or college setting; some work in loosely related creative fields like game design; others find other creative ways to pursue a professional career in a way that complements, or at least doesn't impede, their art practice.

Robert Lindsey fell into doing large-scale murals in homes, stores, and offices after studying fine art at Stanford. It's not necessarily what he always imagined himself doing, but he gets to paint all day and makes a much better paycheck than he likely ever would selling paintings. Metrick knows a painter who does art for wine bottle labels, a jewelry maker who travels the festival circuit, and a quilt maker who specializes in customized memory quilts. Fletcher has found a way to integrate his art life with his professional life by creating conceptual performance pieces focusing on themes of commerce and trade.

"There is a way to make it overlap," Fletcher said. "It is almost always possible to do both things full-time." ●

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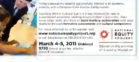

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by Hilary Romanoff, M.A., M.Ed

Let's be honest. Everyone has an opinion about resumes and thinks that his or her opinion is right! Ultimately it's up to you as the candidate to decide what best represents you. Consider the following when writing and updating your resume. Following these steps can give you a strong position in a competitive marketplace

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3. **Use Keywords and Phrases.** Include industry keywords and phrases in both your resume and cover letter Take your cues from the job description informational interviews and company literature
4. **Select Power Verbs.** Every word on your resume counts Use action verbs that really get your meaning across and be direct I often see people write "Responsible for managing the " Instead try "Manage the " Be creative with your word choice
5. **Use a Title or Heading that Matches the Job You Want.** You have about 3 seconds to distinguish yourself from the crowd! A heading like Marketing Manager as opposed to just a name takes you one step closer to yes Adding a profile statement that highlights your achievements moves you to the next level
6. **Use an Appropriate Design. Know your industry.** Conservative organizations prefer more traditional resumes, chronological, basic text etc Make your resume easy to read and highlight the most significant aspects of your experience
7. **Prioritize Content.** What is most relevant to this position? What will be attractive to the organization? Emphasize those achievements and skills that you want to use again Remember that anything you put on your resume is open to discussion Always be honest!
8. **Target Your Resume** A prospective employer does not have the time to "read between the lines" Be specific about your experience and skills. Everything on your resume should be relevant to the position that you want
9. **Start with a Profile Statement.** Consider starting your resume with a profile or summary of qualifications In just a few seconds the resume screener gets an instant impression of who you are and what you can do
10. **Proofread, Spell-check, Proofread** Details count. Employers often receive hundreds of resumes and cover letters for each position The quickest way to get in the no pile is by having simple spelling grammar and typo mistakes. Have someone else read your resume before you submit it.

Hilary Romanoff M.A. M.Ed. is a career counselor and coach at the Bay Area Career Center in San Francisco. With over 15 years experience she has worked with hundreds of clients in a variety of corporate educational and non profit environments. Sign up for a one-on-one session with her to improve your resume at the **Progressive Opportunities Career Fair on January 23.**

Progressive Opportunities Career Fair Advertorial

RETIREES MUST MAKE (AT LEAST) FIVE KEY FINANCIAL DECISIONS

By Samantha N. Dinh, AAMS

Once you retire, you'll have several important financial and investment decisions to make. Here are five of them:

How much will you spend each year?
Your spending habits will greatly affect your investment decisions

How should you balance your investment portfolio to provide sufficient income and growth opportunities?
You'll need both growth and income potential during retirement

How much should you withdraw each year from your investment portfolio?
You need to withdraw the right amount to avoid depleting your portfolio.

From which accounts should you begin taking withdrawals?
You may want to withdraw from your taxable accounts first, followed by your tax deferred accounts

When should you take Social Security?
You can get bigger checks by waiting, but your choice really depends on when you need the money

After you've made these key decisions, you can create the financial strategy you need to enjoy an active, fulfilling retirement

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Samantha N. Dinh, AAMS is a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Montclair Village in Oakland specializing in retirement planning, Life and Long Term Care insurance, and generational wealth transfer strategies. She can be reached at (510) 339-1840 or samantha.dinh@edwardjones.com. Sign up for a one-on-one session with her at the **Progressive Opportunities Career Fair on January 25.**

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Progressive Opportunities Career Fair Advertorial

CAREER PATHS FOR A CHANGING JOB MARKET

by
Allie Roth

Are you unemployed, underemployed, or bored or dissatisfied with your current job?

Are you thinking of exploring a new career but unsure of how to start?

We live in an age of uncertainty, often finding ourselves fluctuating between fear and hope. The economic recovery is slower than we would like and California unemployment is over 12%. And yet many of us are optimistic about long-range shifts taking place. How can we find opportunities in adversity? What are the best career choices today? How can we reconcile our desire to do creative and meaningful work with the realities of today's job market?

Fear is the big crippler. It causes us to give up and lose hope. Don't give up. This is the perfect time to explore a new career path or to return to school for career retraining or skill upgrading. And for some, internships, pro-bono work, consulting projects or entrepreneur ventures might be best for keeping your resume current, exposure to new ideas and opportunities, and bringing in or leading to short-term income.

What is it that truly calls you? How can you take your skills and strengths and apply them to careers that are aligned with your values?

10 STEPS FOR CAREER REDIRECTION

1. Keep positive and hopeful. Avoid people who only think negatively and those who have given up.
2. Do a thorough self-inventory of your skills, strengths, interests and values.
3. Upgrade your skills. Find your niche. Be open to new developments in your field and fields that interest you.
4. Consider retraining for a new field—but only after you have done the research on opportunities in that field.
5. Clarify your focus. Know what you are looking for and be focused in your networking.
6. Conduct "advice and counsel" meetings and informational interviews. Engage support.
7. Look for the confluence of the three areas of your skills and abilities, your interests and values, and developments in the local job market.
8. Use the internet wisely. It is important for research, networking and contact information. It is less effective for job listings and many people spend too much of their job search time here.
9. Target fields or companies you want to work in and network there. Keep your eye on the target.
10. Volunteer, do pro-bono work, project consulting, and temporary work. Consider internships or starting your own business. Build your resume for your desired career path.

Allie Roth is a career and executive coach with 25 years experience and the founder and director of the Center for Creativity and Work. For more information, visit www.allieroth.com or email allie@allieroth.com. Sign up for a one on one session with her at the **Progressive Opportunities Career Fair on January 23.**

Brianne and Melanie Crawford both decided to go back to school

Rachel Swan

IS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL WORTH THE PRICE?

Traditionally, getting that degree makes sense during a recession. But with the costs of education skyrocketing, is it still smart?

By Rachel Swan

When **Melanie Crawford** decided to head back to school in 2007, she was trying to be prudent and practical. After she had earned an associate's degree in English from **Chabot Community College** seven years earlier, she took a long hiatus to raise her family. Crawford had always wanted to get her bachelor's, but time and financial constraints prevented her from doing so. The stars aligned three years ago, when she got a divorce settlement for $90,000. "I looked at it as an investment in myself," Crawford said. She enrolled in a two-year English program at **California State University East Bay**, hoping to better her job prospects.

Easier said than done. By the time Crawford graduated in 2009, she'd spent $70,000 on tuition, books, and living expenses. Unable to find a writing job, she was relegated to office temp work. She found that a lot of companies wouldn't hire an older employee, for fear she'd retire after a few years. (Crawford didn't want to reveal her age in this article.) In hindsight, the rewards of her education were mostly intangible. "I think my outlook has been enlarged as far as looking at the world," Crawford said, adding that her favorite class at Cal State East Bay was one on critical thinking. "I question things more," she continued. "I don't just take things as gospel truth when I hear them."

It's become a point of contention whether so-called "seasoned students" like Crawford are getting a return on their educational investment. The old axiom is that it usually pays to get more schooling. The more education you get, the more competitive you are in the job market. You become more valuable as an employee, you get better connections, and you have more access to resources. "Thus it makes sense that a lot of people would seek refuge in academia during an economic downturn. And if you're unemployed, then you don't have a lot to lose," noted **Sylvan Allegretto**, a labor economist at **UC Berkeley**. "The opportunity costs of going to school became lower when you don't have a job," she explained.

Nonetheless, the rising cost of a university education can outweigh the short-term benefits. Crawford endured several tuition hikes during her time at CSU. "The last couple semesters were the worst," she recalled. "It was up around two to three hundred dollars per semester." To make matters worse, university parking fees nearly doubled between 2007 and 2009. That was a huge hardship for commuter students like Crawford.

UC Berkeley also saw a spate of huge tuition hikes between 2007 and 2011. Currently, the price of an undergraduate education runs from $21,980 to $31,046 annually, while a graduate education comes to $34,286 for California residents and $49,526 for nonresidents. For a lot of people that's cost prohibitive. Add to the fact that graduates are entering a formidably tough market in which jobs are scarce and fewer people are retiring. "The labor force participation of those 55 and older has increased, because they need to keep health care and benefits, and because their retirements were hammered during the recession," Allegretto said. "If you're in California, it's not looking good for anyone."

To some extent, prospective students appear to be taking the uncertainty of job placement and the disproportionately high cost of education into account. At UC Berkeley, the number of graduate students who are thirty years old or older hasn't changed significantly in the past few years, even though huge numbers of adult Californians are out of work. **Janet Gilmore**, the university's strategic communications director, said the thirty-and-over graduate enrollment went from 525 in the fall of 2007 to 496 in the fall of 2010. Gilmore hasn't seen a shift in the median age of applicants, either. Nor did **Peralta Community Colleges** get a notable increase in older students. At **Berkeley City College**, students in the 35 to 54 age group accounted for 25 percent of the enrollment population in 2002, and 16 percent in 2010. At Laney, they were 23 percent in 2002, and 20 percent in 2010. At Merritt, they were 33 percent in 2002 and 25 percent in 2010.

Former Cal State East Bay professor **Melissa Hillman** attributed the static enrollment rate to rising costs and budget cuts that result in fewer spots available for students. "It's not as easy to get into those programs," she wrote in an e-mail. "There's more competition than there once was, and it's hard to compete for a spot at Cal [against] a kid with a 4.3 [GPA] when there was nothing above a 4.0 when you went to school."

It also doesn't necessarily mean that fewer people are applying. Cal State got a significant increase in applications after lowering enrollment requirements a few years back, Hillman said. More than 12,000 California residents applied to UC Berkeley as transfer students in the fall of 2010, though only 3,301 were admitted. According to **Eva Rivas**, UC Berkeley's executive director of the **Transfer, Reentry, and Student Parent Center**, the number of transfer student applications is steadily increasing. But that's not always traceable to economic erosion, she said. "From my anecdotal experience with new students, it's not a lot about the economy," Rivas explained. "We don't hear that a lot. Usually, returning students come because they want to go in a new direction."

"A new direction" could mean better job prospects, or it could mean the solution to an existential crisis. Perhaps it just means that older students are thinking strategically. It's already a well-known truism that the rewards reaped from a university education depend largely on your field, and that might be truer than ever before. It's certainly true at the Peralta colleges, where nursing and business administration, two fields of study that tend to lead directly to jobs, have the most declared majors, followed by general curriculum and child development.

Crawford's daughter Brianne said she took the job market into consideration before entering CSU alongside her mother. A single mom with a long résumé of retail jobs, she chose to matriculate in sociology with a social services option. After graduating in 2009, she got a job working with autistic children. "I chose social sciences because I wanted to work with people and I needed a degree to do that," she said. "When you're looking for a job you have more security with a bachelor's than you would with just an AA degree."

That said, even a BA sometimes isn't enough. Brianne still owes $15,000 in student loans, but she's thinking of going back to pursue a master's in the next couple years. She ascribes that choice to the recession. "With the way the economy is going, and the things I want to do," she said, "it's gonna take another degree." ●

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[illegible] 3?? Lakeshore Ave., Suite 2, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani)
[illegible] 3?? Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $$
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[illegible] 6416 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-4401 (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$$
[illegible] 5311 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-3200 (Indian/Pakistani) $$
Cafe [illegible] Wildcat Canyon and Grizzly Peak, [illegible] Berkeley, 888-327-2757 (Parks/Burgers/Sandwiches/Coffeehouses/[illegible]/Dessert/Ice Cream) $
[illegible] 5301 College Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1388. (Asian Fusion/Seafood) $$-$$$
[illegible] 5258 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4050 (Italian) $-$$
[illegible] 3201 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-652-8052 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$
[illegible] 6347 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-3291 (Southeast Asian) $
[illegible] 6000 Claremont Ave., Oakland, 510-595-8958 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$
Oliveto 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$
Oliveto Cafe 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356 (Italian/Coffeehouses) $$$
[illegible] Bangkok Eatery 5421 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-1988 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$
Somerset 5912 College Ave., Oakland, 510-428-5913 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$
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Uzen 5415 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-7753 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
[illegible] 6317 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-8907 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
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[illegible] Ethiopian Restaurant 4880 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3456. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$
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[illegible] 4307 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-[illegible] (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$
[illegible] 5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Bakery/Coffeehouses) $-$$
[illegible] 4906 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0678. (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$$
[illegible] 4725 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2690 (Southeast Asian) $$
[illegible] 4427 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
[illegible] 4314 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-[illegible] (Korean) $
[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Korean) $$
[illegible] [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Deli/Italian) $
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[illegible] [illegible] Oakland Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Coffeehouses/Organic/Sustainable/Breakfast/Brunch/Performance Venues) $
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[illegible] 4923 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $
[illegible] 4315 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Korean) $-$$
[illegible] Barbeque House [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] $-$$
[illegible] 5179 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (American/California Cuisine/Southern/Soul Food) $$$
[illegible] 3919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Korean) $

TRI-VALLEY

[illegible] Agave [illegible] [illegible] Main St., Pleasanton, 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $$$
[illegible] [illegible] Church St., Danville, 925-[illegible] (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$-$$$$
[illegible] Cafe [illegible] Main St., Pleasanton, 925-[illegible] (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$$
[illegible] Steakhouse [illegible] Sycamore Valley Rd. West, Danville, 925-[illegible] (Steak House) $$$$
[illegible] [illegible] Market Pl., San Ramon, 925-[illegible] (Hawaiian) $
Kinder's Custom Meats [illegible] Rd., Suite [illegible], Pleasanton, 925-[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $
Kinder's Custom Meats [illegible] Town & Country Dr., Suite G, Danville, 925-[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $
[illegible] [illegible] Alamo Plaza, Alamo, 925-838-[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $
[illegible] [illegible] San Ramon Valley Blvd., [illegible], 925-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $$
[illegible] [illegible] San Ramon [illegible], Dublin, 925-833-[illegible] (American/Seafood/Steak House) $$$
[illegible] [illegible] San Ramon, 925-[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$$
The [illegible] [illegible] Rd., Lafayette, 925-[illegible] (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$
[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] Sycamore Valley Rd. W., Danville, 925-[illegible] (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$$
The [illegible] & the [illegible] [illegible] Ave., Danville, 925-820-0811 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
Red Smoke Grill 4501 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-734-0307 (American/Barbecue) $
[illegible] [illegible] Crow Canyon Pl. #C, San Ramon, 925-277-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$$
Sergio's Trattoria [illegible] Bollinger Canyon Way, San Ramon, 925-[illegible]. (Italian) $$-$$$
[illegible] [illegible] San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, 925-820-[illegible]. (Middle Eastern/Persian) $
Taqueria [illegible] [illegible] Pl., San Ramon, 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $
[illegible] [illegible] San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville, 925-838-[illegible] (Mexican)
Taqueria [illegible] 515 [illegible], Pleasanton, 925-734-[illegible] (Mexican) $
Taqueria [illegible] 5331 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-[illegible]. (Mexican) $
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[illegible] Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Social [illegible] [illegible] Alamo Plaza, Alamo, 925-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Eastern European) $$
Zachary's Chicago Pizza [illegible] Crow Canyon Pl., Suite D, San Ramon, 925-244-1222. (Pizza) $-$$

WALNUT CREEK

[illegible] [illegible] Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible] (American/Steak House/Bars & Clubs) $$$
[illegible] of India [illegible] N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
[illegible] [illegible] Bonanza St., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible] (Chinese) $-$$
[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible]. (Diner) $
[illegible] 1548 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek, 925-939-4655 (California Cuisine/[illegible]) $$
[illegible] [illegible] St., Walnut Creek, 925-952-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $$
[illegible] [illegible] Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible] (Barbecue/[illegible]) $
Lark Creek Walnut Creek 1360 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-1234 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$
The [illegible] [illegible] South Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible] (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $$
[illegible] 1522 North Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible] (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$
[illegible] [illegible] Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible] (Italian/Pizza) $-$$
Va de Vi Bistro & Wine Bar 1511 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek, 925-979-0100 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Organic/Tapas/Wine Bar) $$-$$$
[illegible] [illegible] Broadway, Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible] (Steak House) $$$-$$$$ ●

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FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family [illegible]. For info, visit PCFMA.com. Sundays, [illegible] a.m.-1 p.m. free. [illegible] (at Haight Ave.) & Webster St., Alameda.
Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-6000, ShopBayfair.com.
[illegible] Market With organic produce, sustainable products, a food court, and performances by local bands. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. Berkeley Adult School, 1312 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.
Emeryville Farmers' Market With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, dairy [illegible], flowers, wine, and more. Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Emeryville City Hall, 1333 Park Ave., Emeryville.
Farm Fresh Choice Community [illegible] Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in culturally diverse, limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-848-[illegible] EcologyCenter.org, Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5550, CityofBerkeley.info/[illegible].
Grand Lake Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lakepark, Oakland, 510-[illegible] 7275, [illegible].com/Parks/[illegible].
Kaiser Permanente [illegible] [illegible] With [illegible] selling locally grown California [illegible] at the main entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser [illegible], 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.
Kaiser Permanente Oakland, Oakland With vendors selling fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.
Kensington Farmers' Market With [illegible] fresh [illegible], organic chocolates, and [illegible] fresh meat and fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, bakery, bread, flowers, fresh pasta, and seasonal surprises. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. [illegible] at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.
Lowell District Farmers' Market Sponsored and maintained by Oakland Food Connection. With certified organic produce from [illegible] Organic Farm and a youth-led [illegible] food booth called the People Lawn Cafe. For more info or to sell, how to get involved please [illegible] Tail at [illegible]@oaklandfoodconnection.org, or call 510-[illegible]. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Lowell District Farmers' Market, [illegible] Blvd., Oakland.
[illegible] Market [illegible] specialty foods, all-organic [illegible], and more for sale, plus special programs and [illegible]. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free admission. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org, [illegible] Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.
Pacific Coast Jack London Square Market Seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, [illegible], specialty foods, yoga, [illegible] live music, and arts and crafts for sale. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Jack London Square, [illegible] Broadway, Oakland.
[illegible] Farmers' Market Fresh, locally grown fruit, flowers, eggs, and dried produce. Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., free. [illegible], [illegible] 24th St. & [illegible] Ave., Richmond.
Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic [illegible] produce, specialty foods and more for sale, plus [illegible] programs and [illegible]. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org, MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible] 5150, [illegible]
Temescal Farmers' Market [illegible] certified farmers offer seasonal [illegible] [illegible] eggs, [illegible] goods, locally smoky fish, [illegible] flowers, and more. Info: 510-745-[illegible]. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.
Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org, Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley. ●

PICK

Pickling Workshop

Perfect partners for beer: pickles whet the appetite and slip easily into sandwiches. A pickling workshop at **Eat Better Feel Better** (1015 Addison St., Berkeley) on Saturday Jan. 15 covers the culturing of raw vegetables such as green beans, okra, radishes, cauliflower, carrots, and peppers with brine, garlic, mustard seed, and other spices. Class fee includes materials; participants can bring home a jar of pickles and instructions for making more. 1 p.m., $40. EatBetterFeelBetter.com — *Anneli Rufus*

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CHERISHED ILLUSIONS

Mike Leigh (*Another Year*) and Sylvain Chomet (*The Illusionist*) race the clock.

By Kelly Vance

Ruth Sheen as Gerri and Jim Broadbent as Tom in *Another Year*

Mike Leigh didn't get to be the movie world's leading humanist by dramatizing the hubbub over the king of England's speech impediment. The lives and opinions of the royal family's favorite musical comedy providers would be more to Leigh's taste à la *Topsy-Turvy*. Or perhaps the problems of someone much lower down, like a groundskeeper at Balmoral Castle.

In fact, outside of *Topsy-Turvy*'s decorous portrait of Victorian tunesmiths Gilbert & Sullivan, Leigh hasn't dabbled in Coffee Table Films. There's a definite lack of fancy dress, stately homes and ostentatious momentousness in his work. Schoolteachers, plumbers, morticians, soldiers, secretaries, clandestine abortionists, and the unemployed are far more likely to be the subjects of a Leigh film than members of the upper crust. The middle and working classes are the field in which the Northern English native filmmaker tends his crops — a place where thoughtful miniatures mean more than the most grandiose landscapes.

Another Year fits into his filmography alongside ***High Hopes*** and ***Career Girls*** as a quiet, carefully observed character study about the sort of people audiences might not ordinarily find interesting — except that if we give writer-director Leigh a chance we'll be thinking about them for weeks afterward, not so much because of what they say but because of what they reveal themselves to be.

Gerri (**Ruth Sheen**) and Tom (**Jim Broadbent**) are a sixtyish wife and husband who cook and carry potting soil and finish the other's thoughts, all in the most natural, unforced way possible. They're at the stage in life, and with each other, in which they're content to occasionally relax and watch the rest of the world go by, with a wry comment or two. Decently defined, but with a certain literary/urbane/worldly tilt.

Tom and Gerri (they've heard all the cat-and-mouse jokes), a geologist and medical counselor respectively, routinely entertain friends at their London-area home. Tom's longtime pal and frequent guest Ken (**Peter Wright**), an overweight, defeated, middle-age bachelor, is nevertheless on the prowl for love. So is Gerri's workmate Mary (**Lesley Manville**), whose loneliness takes the form of gregariousness when she's in her cups, which is often. Mary considers Ken a hapless fool. But she gets an odd kick out of cornering T&G's thirtysomething unmarried son, Joe (**Oliver Maltman**) — schmoozing that edges into boozy flirtation. All that flies out the window, however, when Joe shows up with his girlfriend Katie (**Katrina Fernandez**), a chatty, cheerful soul whose presence upsets the jealous Mary. So we've got a simmering stew of emotions and a pair of wise old cooks to stir it.

Leigh stock company regular Manville (***Vera Drake, All or Nothing, Topsy-Turvy, Secrets and Lies***) threatens to run away with the film as the needy, self-pitying, yet eminently lovable Mary. As "devised" by Leigh's improvisational method of cast preparation, Mary gets the best scenes, if not necessarily the best lines, and Manville, a thrilling actor with an arsenal of personae inside, sets up Mary as the archetypal unfulfilled urbanite of a certain age. Perhaps the finest "supporting actress" job of 2010.

Another Year

Written and directed by Mike Leigh. With Jim Broadbent and Lesley Manville. Opens Friday.

The Illusionist

Directed by Sylvain Chomet. Opens Friday.

But then Leigh always manages to match his scenarios with the best character acting in the UK. From Alison Steadman, Gary Oldman, Tim Roth, Timothy Spall, Jane Horrocks, Alfred Molina, and the late Katrin Cartlidge to David Thewlis, Sally Hawkins, Eddie Marsan, Philip Davis, Stephen Rea, Andy Serkis, and Brenda Blethyn, Leigh casts his forays into ordinary life with extraordinary personalities. Case in point: Leigh veterans Broadbent and Sheen, the warm, firm center of *Another Year*. By the time the writer-director blends in the melancholy subplot of Tom's brother Ronnie (**David Bradley**) and Ronnie's unhinged nephew Carl (**Martin Savage**), the actor's picnic is bursting, an embarrassment of talent.

The filmmaker holds so many aces he can afford to tease us with his opening scene. We think we're going to follow along with the sad woman (**Imelda Staunton**) we see confessing to Gerri, but no. A Leigh slice of life can handle any number of scene-stealers. It's his gift to be able to beguile us with beautifully etched characters, demonstrate imperishable truths, and then usher us back out into the chilly night with our heads spinning. *Another Year*, which plays out over the course of four seasons, might seem at first to be a meditation on old age, but its lingering impression is one of reassurance that we're all more or less in the same boat.

Sylvain Chomet's animated drama ***The Illusionist*** seems to be attracting a few critical sneers. Most of the complaints take issue with Chomet for appropriating — some might say dumbing down — the style and tone of France's legendary comic auteur **Jacques Tati** in order to tell the virtually dialogue-free story of an aging, down-at-the-heels traveling magician who more or less adopts a [illegible] girl in an attempt to bring some "magic" into her life.

Guardians of the Tati shrine should lighten up a bit. Chomet, maker of the imaginative ***The Triplets of Belleville***, is only paying tribute to the whimsical creator of *Jour de fête* and *Play Time* — not stealing his legacy. *The Illusionist* is Chomet's adaptation of an unproduced original screenplay by Tati, evidently intended as a memento of a father's love for his daughter. Chomet draws the illusionist to resemble Tati and borrows the master's sight gags and pantomime, but so what? Other reviewers have kvetched about Chomet's abuse of sentimentality and nostalgia. The slender story, essentially a fable about the passing of youth and the impossibility of holding on to loved ones, demands those ingredients the way a horror film requires blood. Let it be.

Chomet's artwork, and especially his use of sound, dials down the frantic urgency of *Triplets*, and the Scottish setting suits the wistful tale of two people who connect across a language and age divide. Time moves on but some things remain the same. For Tati and Chomet, the feelings are mutual.

Don't miss **Suspicion: The Films of Claude Chabrol & Alfred Hitchcock**, a fourteen-film mini retrospective of both directors' work, opening Thursday at the **Pacific Film Archive**. Chabrol, who died last September, was once thought of as nothing more than an admirer of the Master of Suspense, but time has proved him to be Hitch's equal. ●

To share this story, type: ebx.by/anotheryear

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to calendar@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

Budrus Thought-provoking Israeli-produced documentary. Budrus: what happens when Ayed and Iltezam Morrar, a father-daughter team of community organizers in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, lead a non-violent [illegible] to the Separation Barrier wall that's threatening their home village. [illegible] when Israeli activists join the struggle, an Arab-Jewish partnership for social justice is created. The [illegible] example of the "hopeful" version of Israeli-Palestinian film partnerships, written and directed by Julia Bacha, who co-wrote *Control Room*. (78 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

The Dilemma Comedy about a car designer (Vince Vaughn) who sees the wife (Winona Ryder) of his business partner (Kevin James) kissing another man and struggles with how to tell him. Directed by Ron Howard and written by Allan Loeb. (110 min.) PG-13. [illegible]

The Green Hornet Superhero film about a crimefighting newspaper publisher (Seth Rogen) and his sidekick (Jay Chou). Directed by Michel Gondry and written by Rogen and Evan Goldberg. (119 min.) [illegible]

The Heart Specialist Romantic comedy about a group of medical residents at a Florida hospital. Starring Wood Harris, Zoe Saldana, Brian J. White, and [illegible], written, produced, and directed by [illegible] Cooper. (99 min.) [illegible]

Rabbit Hole Is Nicole another [illegible] of the screen's most [illegible] [illegible] of Becca (Kidman) and her husband Howie (Aaron Eckhart) [illegible] by the sudden [illegible] of their young son. Playwright/screenwriter David Lindsay-Abaire and director John Cameron Mitchell [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] (Dianne Wiest), and the [illegible] guest, [illegible] Miles [illegible]

Somewhere We have to give filmmaker Sofia Coppola credit for sticking to her guns. With *Lost in Translation*, *Marie Antoinette*, and now this tiresome latter-day Tinseltown showbiz study, writer-director Coppola has consistently maintained her studiously detached, emotionally unmanned style. There's even a similarity in protagonists: bored, diffident movie star Johnny Marco (played narcotically by Stephen Dorff), drifting through a round of routines in Hollywood's Chateau Marmont and other glamorous locations, bears a distinct resemblance to Bill Murray's out-of-towner and Kirsten Dunst's teen princess, respectively. Only eleven-year-old Elle Fanning, as Marco's visiting daughter, offers hope of dramatic anything and when she departs, so does everything else. Has Coppola been looking at too many old [illegible] movies? (97 min.) (K.V.) CA

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. **AL** = Landmark Albany, **ATC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex, **BC** = Brenden Concord, **BK** = Cinemark Blackhawk, **BP** = Brenden Pittsburg, **BS** = AMC Bay Street, **CA** = Landmark California, **CAPH** = Cinemark Pleasant Hill, **CB** = Century Bayfair, **CCC** = Contra Costa Cinemas, **CEPH** = Century Pleasant Hill, **CH** = Century Hilltop, **CHY** = Century Hayward, **CN** = Cinedome Newark, [illegible] = Regal [illegible], [illegible] = [illegible], **CUC** = Century Union City, **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek, [illegible] = AMC [illegible], **GL** = Grand Lake, **JL** = Regal Jack London, [illegible], **PFA** = Pacific Film Archive, **PIE** = Landmark Piedmont, [illegible], **RH** = Regal Hacienda, **RT** = [illegible], **S** = Landmark Shattuck, **UAB** = UA Berkeley, **UAEB** = UA Emery Bay, **V** = Vine, **WWS** = West Wind Solano

MoT

ONGOING

127 Hours An experienced outdoorsman (James Franco) on a solo hike gets pinned in a deep crevice in the [illegible] and has to cut off his arm to survive. Director Danny Boyle and Simon [illegible], with the help of A.R. Rahman's music and cinematography by Enrique Chediak and Anthony Dod Mantle, take that slender but [illegible] news story [illegible] and [illegible] a [illegible] of Aron Ralston [illegible] and [illegible] hallucinations [illegible] of a magnificently [illegible]. It's [illegible] but it's also [illegible] the longest 94 minutes you'll spend in a good movie [illegible]. The adapted screenplay is by Boyle and Simon Beaufoy, who also [illegible] *Slumdog Millionaire* directed. (95 min.) (K.V.) [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] on her life and times. [illegible]

O'Hara's documentary profile of Bhutto does an [illegible] job laying out the ways and [illegible] of her [illegible] as Pakistan's and female [illegible] [illegible]. Flashing back from her assassination by [illegible] on 2007, the doc looks at her father, former prime minister [illegible] Ali Bhutto, [illegible] Zia-ul-Haq [illegible] with [illegible] the US, aka "the oil thing," and how Bhutto's [illegible] the military and radical [illegible]. [illegible] (111 min.) (K.V.)

Black Swan Natalie Portman's performance as a [illegible] Aronofsky's a psychological thriller, [illegible] a [illegible] than his portrait of [illegible] (and [illegible]) [illegible]. The [illegible] in her [illegible] "grown-up" role after years of ingénue [illegible] portrays Nina, up for the lead part in Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake and [illegible] by [illegible] (Mila Kunis), the ballet company's [illegible] director (Vincent Cassel) and her own [illegible] mother (Barbara Hershey). [illegible] problems are of her own. Starring [illegible] De Palma, [illegible] [illegible] (The Red Shoes), but [illegible]

The Green Hornet

[illegible] (with Mark [illegible], [illegible]) [illegible] [illegible]. Major credit to all four main actors, [illegible] the story might never have [illegible] its [illegible] power. (107 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

Blue Valentine Back and forth in time we go with a lower-middle-class [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] But there's something cold and [illegible] [illegible] claustrophobic [illegible] and [illegible] may be intended [illegible] but they only [illegible] the artificiality of the screenplay by [illegible], Joey Curtis, and Carol [illegible] (K.V.)

Burlesque [illegible]

[illegible] when but Starring with the rich storybook (Eric Dane of *Grey's Anatomy*) who [illegible] both the [illegible] and [illegible]. This slick, brassy [illegible] [illegible], raiding everything from *Gold Diggers of 1933* to *Showgirls*, [illegible] as choreographers [illegible] Bob Fosse. [illegible] writer-director Steven Antin [illegible] something [illegible] Kristen Bell [illegible] ("I will not be upstaged by a [illegible] with [illegible] lungs!"). With Stanley Tucci and Alan Cumming. (118 min.) (A.S.) [illegible]

Casino Jack [illegible] enough that this [illegible] was the second film of 2010 to deal with the downfall of [illegible] lobbyist and convicted grifter Jack Abramoff. It's equally [illegible] in its own right [illegible] Kevin Spacey [illegible] in the role of DC [illegible] Abramoff, who [illegible] Native American casino [illegible] and legislators with equal ease [illegible]. The late George Hickenlooper, who directed, and writer Norman Snider, are trying to make a black comedy about American government corruption à la Charlie Wilson's War but [illegible] except Jon Lovitz' performance as an Abramoff crony. Also with Barry Pepper and Kelly [illegible]. (108 min.) (K.V.)

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader [illegible], a big [illegible] (*The World Is Not Enough*) and famous for his [illegible] documentaries about children becoming adults (*Seven Up* et al), [illegible] was an inspired choice for this third installment of the franchise based on C.S. Lewis's [illegible] fantasy [illegible]. The two youngest Pevensie children (Skandar Keynes, Georgie Henley) and their peevish cousin (Will Poulter, outstanding) are pulled and the [illegible] to [illegible]. The beguiling [illegible] dragon [illegible] one-footed dwarf and 3D effects heighten the [illegible] of a storybook [illegible] while the [illegible] Lewis's Christian [illegible] than [illegible] of the previous movies. With Ben Barnes and Tilda Swinton. (115 min.) (A.S.) [illegible]

Country Strong Drama [illegible] a [illegible] singer's [illegible] and romantic [illegible]. Starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Leighton Meester, and Tim McGraw; written and directed by Shana Feste. (112 min.) [illegible]

Dinosaurs Alive! From the Triassic to the Cretaceous, dinosaurs are uncovered by paleontologists and portrayed in realistic IMAX. [illegible]

The Fighter A [illegible]-than-average boxing pic is [illegible] and is [illegible] by a [illegible] screenplay and [illegible] by virtually the [illegible] cast. Working-stiff [illegible] Micky Ward (Mark Wahlberg, [illegible] fighter) must overcome the "help" of his crack-addicted, [illegible]-ring-has-been [illegible]

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Rabbit Hole

(Christian Bale) and their overbearing mother (Melissa Leo) while trying to punch his way to the top. Also in Micky's corner is his equally tough girlfriend (Amy Adams). The fight sequences are the best thing about it. The knuckle-sandwich script, by [illegible] and [illegible], does what he must, but Micky's story is so [illegible] to say [illegible] for [illegible] Raging Bull. Why didn't they make this a documentary instead? (114 min.) [illegible]

Gulliver's Travels [illegible] stars in the modern-day adaptation of Jonathan Swift's 1726 novel. Also starring Jason Segel. Directed by Rob Letterman and adapted by Joe Stillman and Nicholas Stoller. [illegible]

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 Offhand seventh episode in the franchise deploys "Nearly Lame" [illegible] temporarily, the [illegible] Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) and his cabal of [illegible] chasing down into the ongoing [illegible] among Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Hermione (Emma Watson) and [illegible] Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint). Despite an undercover visit to the Ministry of Magic and the usual load of effects, the middle sags. But then sequence the "Three Brothers" [illegible] take away the comfy-gothic [illegible] and you've got an ordinary big-budget thriller like any other — but then [illegible] are [illegible]. [illegible] Rhys Ifans, Fiona Shaw, Imelda Staunton, and Andy Linden among [illegible]. The Potter [illegible] is definitely wearing off. Constantine [illegible] Steve Kloves' adaptation of the J.K. Rowling young adult novel. (146 min.) [illegible]

How Do You Know James L. Brooks is one of the few TV sitcom writers (*The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Taxi*) who's carried his tricks with as a filmmaker (*Terms of Endearment*, *As Good as It Gets*), mainly by counterbalancing the wit of his small-talkers with [illegible] drama. This time Brooks [illegible] the character [illegible] of [illegible] a [illegible] career woman (Reese Witherspoon) as a U.S. Olympic softball player, torn in [illegible] between a [illegible] but charming [illegible] (Owen Wilson) as a Washington Nationals baseball star and a [illegible] businessman who really understands her (Paul Rudd) as a [illegible] charged with securities fraud. The result is highly entertaining but hardly rises with the director's best work: a dramatic subplot involving the money guy and his [illegible] father (Jack Nicholson) never gains traction, and the [illegible] in which [illegible] like a [illegible], shows how [illegible] Brooks's [illegible] but [illegible]. (120 min.) [illegible]

I Love You Phillip Morris Gay con man finds love in prison, in the hands of Jim Carrey that's a high-concept [illegible]. [illegible] Carrey and Ewan McGregor go all out, so to speak, as Glenn Ficarra and John Requa's [illegible] based character study based on the [illegible] of a [illegible] Texas con man and [illegible] and a

the Texas-based police mentality, overbearing life [illegible] of [illegible] homosexuality. Carrey, [illegible], and Johnny [illegible] seem [illegible] through to top

speed — well, [illegible] (played by Carrey in overdrive) [illegible] a pretty [illegible] life. One for the [illegible] by the [illegible] between by Ficarra and Requa

from the true-crime book by Steve McVicker. (102 min.) [illegible]

Inside Job So who got us into the Great Recession? Greedy banks, rapacious financiers, paid-off economists, and every regulation-destroying politician and government official went [illegible], says the outraged but [illegible] doc by Charles Ferguson (*No End in Sight*). The mountain of incriminating [illegible] between is [illegible] high to climb, but director Ferguson, [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] an [illegible] The [illegible] did quite well, thank you, but the rest of us continue to pay the tab for the "global Ponzi scheme" and [illegible] very few [illegible] "private gains at public loss," as one director describes it. The film's parting question: What are we [illegible]? [illegible] French [illegible] Christine Lagarde, IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn, and [illegible] George Soros. (120 min.) [illegible]

The King's Speech No holiday [illegible] be complete without a "worthy British historical [illegible]", and the Weinstein Company obliges as the year with this pleasant drama about the Duke of York (Colin Firth), who had to overcome a serious [illegible] in order to take the throne as King George VI and lead his people against the Nazi threat. The story is based on the unpublished diaries of Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush), the Australian speech therapist who succeeded where others had [illegible] the royal's [illegible], and the two leads

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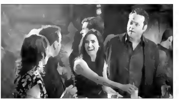
keep the movie afloat with their light-footed salon warfare. This Anglican buddy movie is [illegible] by a spiry history lesson about the scandalous marriage of the duke's [illegible] Edward VIII, to the twice-divorced Wallis Simpson, which forced him from the throne, and by Timothy Spall as a rasping, cigar-chewing Winston Churchill. Two [illegible] with Helena Bonham Carter, Guy Pearce, Derek Jacobi, and [illegible] Gambon as the imperious George V. (118 min.) (J.J.)(R) CWC, [illegible]

Little Fockers The opening minutes offer so many knowing [illegible] parenting, [illegible] pharmaceutical sales reps—that I held high hopes for this comedy sequel. But they'd already faded by the time the Viagra gags culminated in Ben Stiller preparing to sink a hypodermic needle into Robert De Niro's [illegible] The Focker franchise has [illegible] (Meet the Parents grossed $166 million; Meet the Fockers, $279 million) that now everyone [illegible] on the set, apparently even the original stars [illegible] only a plus-one, with the film [illegible] by Harvey Keitel [illegible] and [illegible] Owen Wilson [illegible] Barbra Streisand and Dustin Hoffman [illegible] as Stiller's [illegible] Meet the Fockers [illegible] the legendary [illegible] Laura Dern, Jessica Alba, and [illegible] McCarthy [illegible] and Teri Polo, as the [illegible] daughter, must have felt grateful they were even allowed on the lot. Paul Weitz directed. (98 min.) (J.J.)(PG-13) [illegible]



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CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, EN, EH, CCC, S, ERT, PH, JL, WNS

Love and Other Drugs Monumentally ill-conceived romance by director Edward Zwick has a [illegible] Viagra salesman (Jake Gyllenhaal) falling in love with an early-onset Parkinson's patient (Anne Hathaway) and mending his wild [illegible] ways. But not before the randy pharma-pusher demonstrates the drug's effectiveness in [illegible] What was Zwick (Defiance, Blood Diamond, The Last Samurai) thinking? The [illegible] screenplay, adapted by Zwick and two other writers from a book by [illegible] [illegible] Hathaway and Gyllenhaal [illegible] Supporting actors Oliver Platt, Hank Azaria, and Josh Gad [illegible] are one-dimensional. If you experience drowsiness, nausea, [illegible] temporary blindness, or [illegible] it's still better than sitting through [illegible] (113 min.) (K.C.)(R) [illegible]

Made in Dagenham It may look like [illegible] but it's English [illegible] Sally Hawkins of Happy-Go-Lucky [illegible] at the head of a cast of English [illegible] in the story of [illegible] sewing machinists at [illegible] Ford auto plant in the [illegible] 1968. [illegible] Bob Hoskins [illegible] Daniel Mays [illegible] the screenplay [illegible] never loses sight of [illegible] at the heart of it. Miranda Richardson [illegible] as a sympathetic Labor Party official [illegible] Nigel Cole. (113 min.) (K.C.)(R) [illegible]

Megamind Quick-witted, spectacular animated fun with a [illegible] "supervillain" (voice of Will Ferrell) who [illegible] The only thing [illegible] blue-headed [illegible] planet Megamind really wants is the girl (Tina Fey). But he can't [illegible] superhero Metro Man [illegible] by Brad Pitt [illegible] Jonah Hill [illegible] The [illegible] make this work. It's better than the [illegible] Despicable Me. Directed by Tom McGrath from an original screenplay by Alan J. Schoolcraft and Brent Simons. (96 min.) (K.C.)(PG) [illegible]

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic, and a [illegible] reveal the [illegible] legends, history [illegible] ancient Egyptian [illegible] CSC

No One Killed Jessica Hindi-language political thriller [illegible] model's murder, and [illegible] sister [illegible] Written and directed by Raj Kumar Gupta, and starring Rani Mukerji and Vidya Balan. (136 min.) [illegible]

Season of the Witch Nicholas Cage stars in [illegible] knight [illegible] Directed by Dominic Sena [illegible] by Bragi F. Schut. (PG-13) [illegible]

The Social Network All You Need Is Friends [illegible] David Fincher (The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Fight Club), screenwriter Aaron Sorkin (The West Wing, Charlie Wilson's War), and a sharp-tongued [illegible] Ben Mezrich's book on the [illegible] days of Facebook [illegible] a pitch-perfect portrait of the times. Led by Jesse Eisenberg's [illegible] Mark Zuckerberg [illegible]

Bhutto

[illegible] of Silicon Valley, the Facebook [illegible] Andrew Garfield, Justin Timberlake, Rooney Mara, [illegible] et al. [illegible] group of aggressive young geeks [illegible] and more privilege and become multi-billion-dollar [illegible] of the universe, with plenty of sex, drugs, hurt feelings, [illegible] and, of course, lousy [illegible]. Thrilling, funny and intelligent. [illegible] (121 min.) [illegible]

Somewhere The story of everyone's [illegible] of gas [illegible]

Tangled The tale of Rapunzel gets a cheeky make-over at the gorgeous Disney [illegible], which combines the studio's traditional hand-drawn look with the sculptural qualities of digital 3D. The [illegible] and wittily [illegible] Zachary Levi [illegible] tower where the princess (Mandy Moore) is being held by a [illegible] witch [illegible] Alan Menken's [illegible] songs [illegible] the show-stopping "Mother Knows Best," in which Murphy channels all the [illegible] smothering [illegible] Byron Howard (Bolt) and Nathan Greno directed. (92 min.) [illegible]

To Be an [illegible] [illegible] what it takes? Take a trip inside the [illegible] of NASA [illegible] of everything [illegible] (40 min.) [illegible]

The Tourist [illegible] "romantic" spy flick [illegible] international woman of mystery Angelina Jolie [illegible] tourist Johnny Depp through Venice [illegible] He's not funny enough, and she [illegible] Four staffs, including [illegible] Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, wrote the screenplay, [illegible] Hollywood [illegible] von Donnersmarck. Angelina [illegible] The Lives of Others [illegible] (104 min.) [illegible]

Tron: Legacy The [illegible] Disney's live-action [illegible] Tron (1982) [illegible] use of CGI in Hollywood though its comedy [illegible] black days, as Disney ramps up this 3-D sequel, [illegible] the story [illegible] Jeff Bridges returns as the [illegible] programmer who disappeared into a dystopian cyber world, though the story [illegible] son who goes looking for him (Garrett Hedlund). The special effects are incredible, [illegible] but oddly, the music, [illegible] original movie's [illegible] pitch-black except for the luminescent piping on the [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] 80s. [illegible] and a digitally [illegible] the second-rating [illegible] off [illegible] one-liners. Joseph Kosinski directed. (125 min.) [illegible]

True Grit The [illegible] is a [illegible] remake of the 1969 John Wayne-Henry Hathaway [illegible] of Charles Portis' novel [illegible] broken-down US Marshal Rooster Cogburn (Jeff Bridges) and [illegible] girl Mattie Ross ([illegible] Hailee Steinfeld) on the [illegible] of the mountain who [illegible] Mattie's father. [illegible] 19th-century [illegible] Josh Brolin, Barry Pepper and [illegible] Matt Damon [illegible] No Country for Old Men [illegible] Ravishing cinematography by Roger Deakins [illegible] and screenplay by Joel and Ethan Coen. (110 min.) [illegible]

Winter's Bone When director Debra Granik made her feature debut with Down to the Bone (2004), [illegible] giving a [illegible] performance [illegible] young mother [illegible] Granik steps even further down [illegible] Jennifer Lawrence [illegible] struggles [illegible] younger siblings [illegible] crystal meth [illegible] the family [illegible] the social [illegible] 21st-century [illegible] community [illegible] the drama [illegible] the movie [illegible] if Granik hadn't [illegible] with John Hawkes. (99 min.) [illegible]

Yogi Bear Animated adaptation of the late TV series, with voices by Dan Aykroyd, Justin Timberlake, and Tom Cavanagh. Directed by Eric Brevig, with a screenplay by Brian Copeland, Joshua Sternin, and Jeffrey Ventimilia. [illegible]

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

Suspicion ([illegible] min., 1941). Suspicion: The Films of Claude Chabrol and Alfred Hitchcock (PFA, 7:00)
In the Heat of the Night (109 min., 1967). Cerrito Classics (RCC, 7)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

Le Beau Serge (97 min., 1958). Suspicion: The Films of Claude Chabrol and Alfred Hitchcock (PFA, 7:00)
Les Bonnes Femmes (93 min., 1960). Suspicion: The Films of Claude Chabrol and Alfred Hitchcock (PFA, 8:50)
Fantasia (124 min., 1940). Movie Classics (Paramount Theatre, Oakland, 8:00)

SATURDAY JANUARY 15

A Brighter Summer Day (240 min., 1991). World Cinema Foundation: Safeguarding Cinematic Treasures. **(PFA, 6:30)**
In the Heat of the Night (109 min., 1967). Cerrito Classics (RCC, 7)
The Room (99 min., 2003). [illegible] midnight screening (PM [illegible])

SUNDAY JANUARY 16

Two Girls on the Street (85 min., 1939). World Cinema Foundation: Safeguarding Cinematic Treasures. **(PFA, 3:00)**
À Double Tour (110 min., 1959). Suspicion: The Films of Claude Chabrol and Alfred Hitchcock (PFA, 5:15)
In the Heat of the Night (109 min., 1967). Cerrito Classics (RCC, 7)

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 19

Beauty and the Beast (93 min., 1946). Film 50: the History of Cinema (PFA, 3:10)
Luminous Projections (total running time 74 min., 1915-2010). [illegible] Films and Video in the San Francisco Bay Area (PFA, 7:30)
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MUSIC

PITCH PERFECT

Little-known jazz vocalist Stephanie Crawford is a master of melodic contour.

By Lee Hildebrand

Stephanie Crawford, perhaps the best little-known jazz vocalist in the Bay Area, recognized early in life that she has a knack for memorizing songs — every lyric, every subtle shift of melodic contour. And her pitch is about as perfect as it can get.

Take, for instance, the exquisite rendition of the 1953 **Bob Dorough** composition "Devil May Care" that she recorded in Paris in the early-1990s, before **Diana Krall** and **Jamie Cullum** gave the tune new currency. With only **Riccardo Del Fra**'s upright bass as a harmonic safety net, Crawford maneuvers the register-shifting melody with near flawless intonation. Within the space of a single phrase she moves from a ringing alto to a dusky contralto while projecting the words with crystalline diction.

The song is the lead track of *The Real Thing*, a thirteen-tune compilation of material from two CDs she recorded during her eight-and-a-half years in France. Crawford sells the disc, which has no booklet notes or musician and songwriter credits, at her local engagements, although those have become increasingly infrequent since **Anna's Jazz Island** closed a year ago this month. She will, however, be performing this Friday at **The Jazzschool**, backed by pianist **Larry Steelman**, bassist **Michael Jones**, and drummer **Paul Tillmon Smith**. She also has been teaching part-time at the school since a job as a **Safeway** grocery store wine steward brought her to the Bay Area five years ago.

"If I didn't get the gig at the Jazzschool, I'd have no gigs at all," she said in her North Oakland apartment, her dark eyes peering intensely over a pair of reading glasses perched on the tip of her nose. Piles of sheet music and songbooks, an electric piano on which she works out arrangements, and an easel for doing drawings and watercolors make her living room seem smaller than it is. One wall is covered with dozens of photographs, many clipped from magazines, of some of her heroes and heroines. They include **Louis Armstrong**, **Betty Carter**, **Billie Holiday**, **B.B. King**, **Marilyn Monroe**, **Charlie Parker**, and **Tupac Shakur**. A wood-and-brass Buddhist altar sits on a table against another wall.

"I don't go out much at night," she added. "Anna's is closed. There's very little nightclub scene in Oakland. Even if you drive a car, we don't live in a time that's safe. At night I really want to come home and listen to some music and watch reruns of *The Golden Girls*."

Crawford was born 68 years ago in Detroit and divided her childhood between living with her mother in that city's Black Bottom — so named not for its racial composition, but due to its dark soil — and with an aunt in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She was surrounded, especially in Detroit, by jazz, blues, R&B, and gospel music and she draws little distinction between those subgenres of African-American music.

"It was all really one music," she stated. "There's only one second that separates Saturday night midnight and Sunday morning. In fact, the people who played on Saturday night were the same people who got up and played in church the following morning. The blues singer understood the minister, and the preacher understood the blues singer. It was all the same kind of expression. It was all black music.

"I distinctly recall my aunt playing 'After Hours' on the piano and then playing 'Clair de Lune' by **Debussy**. It was kind of a synthesis, if you will. It was the music coming out of the church, out of the bar, out of the whorehouse. It was the music that was played in the street. It wasn't something that had to be acquired. It was right there."

Crawford can't remember a time when she didn't sing. "If you took me to the movies and there was music in it and you brought me back, I would sing the music I heard," she explained. She did not, however, sing in public until she was 36, after working on a **Chrysler** assembly line and as a short-order cook and earning a bachelor's degree in painting from **Wayne State University**.

Her first performance in front of an audience was at "an awful little dive" in Detroit. "There was a white lady who played piano on Sundays," Crawford recalled. "She played rather badly. She'd forget the words and I would call up the right words. One night she said, 'Since you know the goddamn song, come up here and sing it.' And she said, 'Whenever you feel like singing, girlie, come on back.' I was there the next week and I never stopped going. I had found it."

Later in New York, while working on a master's in fine arts, Crawford became so immersed in the Manhattan jazz scene that she dropped out of school in order to devote more time to sitting in at jam sessions. She also studied for a period with jazz greats **Frank Foster** and **Barry Harris**.

"I didn't want to create a work of art," she explained. "I wanted to be a work of art."

Singing, she added, "is a compulsion. It is almost as if you are possessed. It allows you to communicate your innermost feelings and thoughts to others."

During her days in Paris, she won the prestigious **Django d'Or** award for "Best International Jazz Vocalist" in 1993, but she earned her living more from teaching jazz singing at two music schools than from performing in clubs. After leaving France, she returned to New York to work for an importer of Portuguese wines, which led to her present job at Safeway.

Crawford's compulsion to sing has never abated, even though she failed to find great success at it. "I've always sung from time to time," she said. "I never became famous. I doubt that I shall ever become famous. You have to have particularly good fortune to achieve fame. It's not synonymous with talent." ●

Stephanie Crawford

Show Details

Stephanie Crawford performs at the Jazzschool (2087 Addison St., Berkeley) on Friday, Jan. 14, 8 p.m. $15. Jazzschool.com

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BE EAZY, G

A young Berkeley rapper shows his stuff

By Rachel Swan

G-Eazy
[illegible]

Berkeley rapper **G-Eazy** has a very auspicious stage name. It could refer to an old-timey expression ("be easy, son"), or a more famous emcee (Young Jeezy). It could be a kind of pig Latin of his given name, **Gerald Earl Gillum**. He says it actually dates back to elementary school. "I went by G.E. as a kid," the emcee confessed, interviewed by phone the day after a sold-out show at La Peña Cultural Center. "I thought my real name was dorky." It wasn't long before kids began elongating the "E" part to "Easy." All he had to do was change one consonant. The handle was pre-ordained.

As were many things about G-Eazy, who graced La Peña for his homecoming concert last Friday wearing black shades, a long scarf, and a glittery **Michael Kors** watch. "When I say G, y'all say Easy!" yelled **DJ Elmo**, who composed one half of the rapper's rhythm section — the other half, drummer **Will Baldocchi**, sat at a trap set in the corner. G-Eazy grinned childishly as he grabbed the microphone. A guy roved around stage with a video camera documenting the rapper's every move. Elmo cued up the track for "Intro (Rounds)," a rattling patchwork of snare and kick drum, over which G-Eazy bragged, *I devour beats like a carnivore*.

Thin and wiry with small, handsome features and a nasal white-boy rap cadence, G-Eazy had nonetheless figured out how to look more famous than anyone else in the room. Perhaps that's easy when you're rocking an all-ages show at La Peña and the majority of your audience goes to **Berkeley High**. But it also shows how much the rapper has matured since playing the same gig last year. In the interim, he toured with **Drake** and **Lil' Wayne** — a résumé-booster that he gamely shared with the audience — put out his fourth LP *Big* and entered his senior year at **Loyola University** in New Orleans, where he's pursuing a BA in music industry studies.

More importantly, he now has the fourteen-year-old girl crowd on lock. Hordes of high school girls and their male suitors had gathered outside La Peña by 10 p.m., still a good hour and a half before G-Eazy was set to go on. The kids treated it as a Berkeley High house party. They stood in one giant clump amid discarded cans of **Old E** and **Four Loko**. The boys were dressed to be extras in a **Harmony Korine** movie. The girls were dressed for the beach. Had they stood outside twenty minutes longer, the headline of this article would have been "Children Perish of Hypothermia While Queuing Up for G-Eazy Rap Show."

In fact, the rap show almost didn't happen. At 10:40 p.m., a fight erupted on the dance floor, right as Elmo was pumping the high school age crowd with radio hits by **Too Short** and **Far East Movement**. Someone snapped the lights on. Kids who hadn't yet gotten in booed angrily in the vestibule. Five minutes passed, and the music came back on. The party resumed as though nothing had happened.

G-Eazy was unperturbed. Buoyed by opening acts **Hard Knock** and **Priceless**, he had the carriage of a real famous person. Eazy says he learned some of that from watching Lil Wayne and Drake from afar. "They're pretty closed off," he admitted. "They'd go from the show to the tour bus to the hotel. We'd go to the same after-parties and be in the same VIP section, but they always had groupies everywhere." Still, he said, a newbie rapper could learn a lot just from watching his betters, even if he wasn't getting heart-to-heart talks. G-Eazy came back from the tour knowing how to format a show, work a crowd, and develop an instant rapport with the audience. He learned how to mesmerize. He learned how to act fabulous.

It certainly paid off at La Peña, where G-Eazy cycled through half a dozen songs at a fast clip. His set list included "California Culture," an anthem that referenced Tupac's 1997 hit "Going Back to Cali," an oldie-but-goodie from the 2009 ***Quarantine*** mixtape, a saccharine ballad called "Candy Girl," and an ode to the children's cartoon *Dexter's Laboratory*. He invited **Priceless** back onstage for two tracks, including "Mango," which is about oral sex. G-Eazy had several family members in the crowd that night, including an aunt, uncle, and grandmother. They hung out in back and nodded to the beats, either ignoring or quietly tolerating the lurid quality of G-Eazy's lyrics. "The music's so loud you can't usually pick up on it," the rapper said later. "And they understand I'm a Gemini."

Perhaps it's no big deal to sell out a show at a small cultural center in your hometown. But G-Eazy appears to know what he's doing. He launched his rap career in high school with the help of **GarageBand** software and a $20 mic from **Radio Shack**. At age 21, he's already four albums deep, and he appears to have a shrewd business acumen. "It's a huge jump from mid-range artist to big," the emcee said, acknowledging that he's still well behind tourmates Drake and Lil Wayne. "Drake pulls in three hundred grand a night, per show ... First you're getting nothing, then you're getting paid big."

For now, though, he's pretty good at playing the part. One song at La Peña had G quoting the old hip-hop adage about "Mo' money, mo' problems." That would be hubris, coming from the mouth of any other 21-year-old emcee. In G-Eazy's case, it was prophetic. ●

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CD REVIEWS

SACRED AND PROFANE

Back-porch blues, pious R&B, and a celebration of teenage autonomy

Deerhoof

Deerhoof vs. Evil

Deerhoof. The very name strikes fear in the hearts of men. As the double-rainbow guy famously queried: "What does this mean?" Indeed. But don't get too lost: on *Deerhoof vs. Evil* the legendarily weird San Francisco art-pop band reveals itself to be somewhat more transparent (and melodic) than its weighty reputation might suggest. Left field artists like **Captain Beefheart** and **Frank Zappa** and even **Ween** have almost always been more about the wrapping than the gift. It's the vacuous pop bands that think they're deep. Good music is more emotional than intellectual, more hard-wired, more automatic, even when it's super weird, and so it goes with Deerhoof.

Deerhoof vs. Evil comes in the band's sixteenth year, and is thus billed as an "ode to their own adolescence." In accordance with the theme of teenage autonomy, the album was self-recorded, mixed, and mastered outside San Francisco in rehearsal spaces and band members' basements, no engineers and no outside input. The results are almost as thrilling as a sixteen-year-old's first turn behind the wheel of Dad's Buick. "Super Duper Rescue Heads!" opens with shimmering dance floor synths over a clean drum beat and a circular, pocket-size guitar riff. Then come **Satomi Matsuzaki**'s twee vocals (*Me to the rescue/Me to the rescue*) and a slew of distorted power chords. At 1:20, the song falls apart and is briefly reconstructed as a **Stereolab**-esque synth bath before returning to the opening chorus (*You to the rescue/You to the rescue*) and finally closing with a twenty-second flurry of noise. It's one of the album's best tracks, and proof that this band of oddities suffers from no shortage of ability to hit listeners where it hurts. (Polyvinyl)

— *Nate Seltenrich*

Mark Hummel

Back Porch Music

Back in the early-1950s, when **Little Walter** was a member of Muddy Waters' band, the Louisiana-born musician began pressing his mouth harp directly against a microphone to get a sound that, after traveling through a cord and out a cheap amplifier, was as fat as a roaring tenor saxophone. Perhaps Walter wasn't the first to do it, but he certainly popularized the practice and created legions of disciples who play that way. Castro Valley resident **Mark Hummel** is among the foremost of them performing today. Yet for *Back Porch Music*, the latest in his long line of recordings, he decided to do it the old time, unplugged way, much as he had back in the day when he busked on the steps of **Sproul Plaza**.

By standing in front of the mic, with air between it and the harmonica, Hummel is able to project the tiny instrument's natural reedier tones on the sixteen well-chosen songs that make up the set. There's no drummer, just **Rusty Zinn** alternating between acoustic and low-volume electric guitars, upright bassist **R.W. Grigsby**, and, on some numbers, **Bob Welsh**, who plays both piano and second guitar. The intimate blues they make together befits the disc's title. Hummel's singing is heartfelt, and his harmonica lines reflect the influences of **Sonny Terry** and the two Sonny Boy Williamsons — John Lee and Rice — although hints of Little Walter remain in his fluid phrasing. (Mountain Top)

— *Lee Hildebrand*

At Yoshi's (510 Embarcadero West, Oakland) on Jan. 14-15, 8 & 10 p.m., and Jan. 16, 2 & 7 p.m. $18-$30. Yoshis.com

R. Kelly

Love Letter

Astonishingly gifted but perpetually eccentric, R. Kelly is R&B's strangest lothario. He's worn many hats over the years — rueful ("I Wish"), giddy ("I'm a Flirt"), bloodless ("A Woman's Threat"), tender ("Homie Lover Friend") — but all of the singer's best works are linked by his open-eared, saucy eccentricity. It is a trait inherited by many of the genre's best new voices, including **The-Dream** and **Janelle Monae**.

Still, we're a long way from 1995, when Kelly exerted so much goodwill that he could sell millions of albums in the wake of a failed marriage to teenage singer **Aaliyah**. Subsequent patience-trying antics obviously took their toll, and in recent years Kelly's critical standing has waned to such a degree that his 2009 album *Untitled* received a lowly rating of 62 on the online review aggregator **Metacritic**.

On the conservative-minded *Love Letter*, 43-year-old Kelly aims to resurrect his image with the most placid piano tunes of his career. Unlike the dubiously sane performance artist of old, this Kelly seems too preoccupied with courting maturity to make much concession to his strengths. *Love Letter* isn't bad, not exactly — in fact, there's something quaint about the record's total sense of conventionality. This is at least preferable to, say, **Lloyd** or **Trey Songz**. But *Love Letter*, with its stilted quiet-storm productions, finds the most creative voice in R&B mulishly holding back. (Jive)

— *M.T. Richards*

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LOCAL LICKS

BY [illegible]

Steve Taylor-Ramirez

Crows Are Laughing EP

Steve Taylor-Ramirez usually goes it alone, but he put together a makeshift folk band for this EP. The backup musicians (**Mike Glendinning** on electric guitar, **John Ingham** on drums, **Mike Eckstein** on bass, and vocalist **Celia Hamer-Stone**) help embroider each tune. Hamer-Stone sings counter-melodies that trill girlishly against Taylor-Ramirez's drawly vocals. The two sound best on "Play Me in a Minor Key." (Taylor Communications)

Tommy Guerrero

Lifeboats and Follies

Latin jazz band leader and skateboarding legend **Tommy Guerrero** cites skateboarding as one of his primary influences, and he writes at the loping tempo of a long board on Roto 78 wheels. His tunes all swing, even if they lack a divisional structure. Guerrero solos on various instruments over a bed of congas, bongos, and paint-can percussion. Tambourines and the scratch of a record needle enhance "The Same Confusion and Hope." (Galaxia Records)

At Cafe du Nord (2170 Market St., San Francisco) on Saturday, Feb. 5. 9:30 p.m. $12.

Nicki Bluhm

Driftwood

Seldom does a newbie folk singer sound as polished as **Nicki Bluhm**, who comes through each bad relationship ballad with the art of a practiced chanteuse. Bluhm errs on the country side of the folk spectrum. But judging by her vocal inflections and chord patterns, she's not strictly a cowgirl. (self-released)

At Cafe du Nord (2170 Market St., San Francisco) on Jan. 15. 8:30 p.m. $10-$12.

Pale Chalice

Afflicting the Dichotomy of Tripid Creation

Pale Chalice is black metal at its most bruising. The album title suggests that this San Francisco quintet is exceptionally obtuse and wordy, though its lyrics are hard to decipher amid growls and screams. That said, singer **Ephemeral Dmagnostika** has moments of sweet poetry. "*Command through abhorrent whisper/outgrowth of morbid perils*," he belts in "Caressed by a Fertile Flame." (The Flenser) ●

Bay Area bands, show us what you've got. Send CDs to Local Licks c/o the *East Bay Express*.
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CONCERTS & CLUBS

ON SALE THIS WEEK

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Destroy Rubyani [illegible] Tickets on sale Sunday Jan. 16, 10 a.m. Sun., March 27, 6:30 p.m. $35. The Regency Center, 1290 Sutter St., San Francisco.
[illegible] Tour: Tickets on sale Sunday Jan. 16, 10 a.m. Fri., April 8, 9 p.m. $35-$85. The Warfield, 982 Market St., San Francisco.
Cypress Hill: Tickets on sale Sunday, Jan. 16, 10 a.m. [illegible] $42. The Warfield, 982 Market St., San Francisco.
Dispatch: Tickets on sale Friday Jan. 21, 10 a.m. Sat., June 11, 7 p.m. $40. Greek Theatre, Gayley Rd. at [illegible] Ave. (UC Berkeley), Berkeley.
[illegible]: Tickets on sale Friday Jan. 14, 10 a.m. Thu., March 31, 8 p.m., $89.50-$75. The Regency Center, 1290 Sutter St., San Francisco.
[illegible]: Tickets on sale Sunday Jan. 16, 10 a.m. Wed., March 30, 8 p.m. $30. The Regency Center, 1290 Sutter St., San Francisco.

THURSDAY 13

EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible] Blues rock, 5 originals. B.A. w/ [illegible] provided. 1462 Pine Ave. 6:30 pm, $5

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $14.50, $16.50
[illegible] Blues guitar. [illegible] 7-9 pm, free
The Two Chickens, [illegible] [illegible] 3-9 pm, donations accepted

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $30, $19
[illegible] Gadsen's Lighthouse, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Greg Anton, Melvin Seals, Robin Sylvester & Kate Coffey, The New Parish, 8:30 pm, $15, $18
Joe Satriani w/ Neal Evett & Triple Double Fox Theater Jan. 13-14, 8 pm, $33.50-$75
The Spazmatics Ron's Hub Sports Bar, 10 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Jesus Diaz La Peña Cultural Center, 8 pm, $18, $20
Mamadou & Vanessa w/ **Soul Union** Ashkenaz, 9 pm, $10
Tito Gonzalez The Uptown, 7:30 pm, $8, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Luggage Store Gallery, 8 pm, $6-$10
SFJAZZ [illegible] Plays Keith Jarrett Amnesia, 9 pm
[illegible] San Francisco-based blues [illegible] live jazz and Blues Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] The Regency Center, 8 pm
[illegible] [illegible] $40, $45
[illegible] [illegible] 8 pm, $8
Reverse Gravity w/ [illegible] 9 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Family Stone Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $20, $26

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

An Evening [illegible] (Throat Singers of Tuva) Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $25
[illegible] Mojito, 9:30 pm, free

FRIDAY 14

EAST BAY

All Ages

Country Joe's Music Hall and Open Mic w/ [illegible] guests, Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 7-9 pm, $6-$10 [illegible]

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Dedications, [illegible] Hill [illegible] 3 pm, donations accepted
[illegible] Blues Harmonica Blowout w/ [illegible], Sugar Blue, [illegible] & Honey Piazza Yoshi's, Jan. 14-15, 8 & 10 pm, $18, $20, $5 [illegible]
[illegible], Craig Caruthers, [illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $20.50, $22.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Jupiter, 8 pm, free
[illegible] [illegible] 8 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Stork Club, 9 pm, $5
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $6
Joe Satriani w/ Neal Evett & Triple Double, Fox Theater, 8 pm, $33.50-$75
[illegible] Presents [illegible] w/ [illegible] Telegraph, 8:30 pm
[illegible] Ashkenaz, 9 pm, $10, $12
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Tiger, [illegible], 924 Gilman, 7:30 pm, $7
Throwrag w/ Turbonegra & The Disciples, The Uptown, 9 pm, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] DeBarge The New Parish, 9 pm, $15, $20
[illegible] Album "This is Getting Ugly" Release Party w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible] Young Hearts, DJ Handsome Nate, [illegible], 9 pm, $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] live flamenco guitar & singers [illegible] 3:30 pm, free
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Pamela [illegible] & Singers [illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 8 pm, $12, $15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible] Ristorante, 8 pm-midnight, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

Nauresa plays the Great American Music Hall on 1/15 & 1/16

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THU 1/13 9:30 pm $10 — AFRICAN **MAMADOU & VANESSA** *Mali Blues with special guest Baba Kouyate from Mali* **+ SOUL UNION**
FRI 1/14 9:30 pm $12 $10 adv/stu — ROCK JAM **MOONALICE** *featuring members of Jefferson Starship, Hot Tuna, Flying Other Brothers & more*
SAT 1/15 9:30 pm $16 $12 adv — GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE **FRONT STREET** with **STU ALLEN**
SUN 1/16 3:00 pm $6 adults $4 kids — KIDS' SHOW **FOUR SHILLINGS SHORT** *Around the world in 30 instruments*
SUN 1/16 8:00 pm $10-$20 sliding scale — ST LUCIA HURRICANE RELIEF BENEFIT **KOUDMEN CSM PANHANDLERS STEEL DRUM BAND**
TUE 1/18 8:30 pm $10 — ZYDECO **TRI TIP TRIO** 8:00 pm Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson
WED 1/19 8:30 pm $12 $10 advance — ECSTATIC SUFI TRANCE GROOVES **BARAKA MOON** Sukhawat Ali Khan, Geoffrey Gordon, Stephen Kent
THU 1/20 9:00 pm $10 — GREEK **THE HELLADELICS THE DISCIPLES OF MARKOS** 7:30 pm Greek dance lesson
FRI 1/21 9:30 pm $13 $10 adv/stu — CARIBBEAN REGGAE **CARIBBEAN ALLSTARS** *Bay Area pioneers Mand Jamaican reggae with calypso, soca & more*

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D.R.I.
ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT - [illegible] HOLE

SAT JAN 15 - $15 ADV/$15 DOOR - DOORS 8 / SHOW 9
CROCODILES
THE FRESH AND ONLYS - MAGIC BULLETS

SUN JAN 16 - $22 ADV/$22 DOOR - DOORS 7:30 / SHOW 8
18TH ANNUAL ROCK-N-ROLL MARDI GRAS!
COWBOY MOUTH
BASH DIP ROCK

TUES JAN 18 - $5 ADV/$5 DOOR - DOORS 7:30 / SHOW 8
[illegible] PRESENTS: WINTER RESIDENCY AT SLIM'S
ENTRANCE (GUY BLAKESLEE SOLO)
3 LEAFS - NECTARINE PIE - [illegible] - [illegible]

THURS JAN 20 - $14 ADV/$16 DOOR - DOORS 8 / SHOW 9
"THE INCREDIBLY DOPE TOUR"
MAC MILLER - CASEY VEGGIES

FRI JAN 21 - $20 ADV/$25 DOOR - DOORS 8 / SHOW 9
PAPA GROWS FUNK
ALLOFASUDDEN

SAT JAN 22 - $15 ADV/$15 DOOR - DOORS 8 / SHOW 9
RUBBER SOULDIERS
(THE BEATLES MEET THE GRATEFUL DEAD)
MOONLIGHT [illegible]

TUES JAN 25 - $5 ADV/$5 DOOR - DOORS 7:30 / SHOW 8
[illegible] PRESENTS: WINTER RESIDENCY AT SLIM'S
THE SANDWITCHES
ART MUSEUMS
THE SOFT [illegible] - [illegible]

FRI JAN 28 - $16 ADV/$19 DOOR - DOORS 8 / SHOW 9
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K. FLAY - THE DANCE PARTY

[illegible]
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SUN JAN 16 - $21 ADV/$21 DOOR - DOORS 8 / SHOW 9
NEUROSIS
ADVIDUUS - U.S. CHRISTMAS

THURS JAN 21 - $25 ADV/$25 DOOR
DOORS 7:30 / SHOW 8:30 - SEATED
JONATHAN COULTON
PAUL & STORM

FRI JAN 21 - $15 ADV/$18 DOOR - DOORS 8 / SHOW 9
RA RA RIOT - GIVERS

SAT JAN 22 - $20 ADV/$20 DOOR - DOORS 7 / SHOW 8
AN EVENING WITH
ASYLUM STREET SPANKERS
FAREWELL TOUR - LAST EVER BAY AREA APPEARANCE!

FRI JAN 28 - $10 ADV/$10 DOOR - DOORS 8 / SHOW 9
DEERHOOF
BEN BUTLER & MOUSEPAD - [illegible]

SAT JAN 29 - $17 ADV/$17 DOOR - DOORS 8:30 / SHOW 9
SPANISH BOMBS
FEAT. CHUCK PROPHET & CHRIS VON SNEIDERN
PERFORMING "LONDON CALLING" BY THE CLASH
THE TITAN UPS

Gibson

C&C

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ Cultured Writhing Ellen & C&C Funk-band. Warnock's Tavern, 8:30 pm, $7

The Infamous Stringdusters w/ [illegible] the Farm Band, The Independent, 9 pm, $12-$14

La Plata w/ Filthy Elbowing Stalemate, The Fucking Buchanans, & El Chenz, [illegible], 8 pm, $12

Queen Revue: Queen of Oakland [illegible], 8 pm, $42-$48

[illegible] [illegible], 7:30 & 10:30 pm, $25

[illegible] Oakland Party w/ Social Studies, La Corde & [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ Dead Meadow, Cafe du Nord, 9:30 pm, $15

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Lounge, The Warfield, 8 pm, $45-$82

D.R.I. w/ Attitude Adjustment & [illegible], Slim's, 9 pm, $17

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Yoshi's-San Francisco, [illegible], 8 & 10 pm, $40

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Tribal Seeds w/ Fortunate Youth & Thrive, Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $14-$18

SATURDAY 15

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] and Information Meeting on The [illegible] Accompaniment Plough [illegible], 1 pm, free

John McCutcheon Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $20.50-$28.50

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Sugar Blue, Carter Del Jones, [illegible], Yoshi's, 8 & 11 pm, $18-$30, $5 children's matinee

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Jazzschool, 8 pm, $15

The Church Mix of Jazz, Soul, & Comedy w/ [illegible] Night, Johnny B's, 8 pm, $10-$18, includes free food

[illegible] Carter Trio Jupiter, 9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible], Stork Club, 9 pm, $6

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Ashkenaz, 9:30 pm, $12-$15

Left Room w/ [illegible] Change Change, [illegible] & [illegible], [illegible] 7 pm, $10

M.E.D.S. w/ Sector 7 & [illegible], Starry Plough, 9 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] & [illegible] w/ Patrick Wilson & [illegible], The New Parish, 10 pm, $10-$20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Rebelution w/ Iration & Orgone, Fox Theater, 8 pm, $29

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Italian folk music w/ [illegible], Caffe Trieste, 10:30 am-12:15 pm, free

[illegible] Amnesia, 7 pm

Experimental & Avant Garde

[illegible] [illegible] Gallery, 8 pm, $5-$10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon Campy revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 7 & 10 pm, $25-$77

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] The Independent, 9 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ Seeking Empire & [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 10 pm, $10-$12

Crocodiles w/ The Fresh & Onlys, Magic Bullets, Slim's, 9 pm, $15

[illegible] The Regency

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[illegible] 7530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-548-5198
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First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-3555
Fox Oakland 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, TheFoxOakland.com
[illegible] 111 W. [illegible] Rd., Hayward 510-783-[illegible]
Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible]
Hertz Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley, 510-642-9988
[illegible] 1650 Webster St., Alameda 510-865-3225
Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-5373
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Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden 1223 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2385
[illegible] 5181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-[illegible]
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Laney College Theater 900 Fallon St., Oakland 510-464-3543
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Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland
Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677
[illegible] Sports Bar & Grill 2721 N. Main St., Walnut Creek 925-256-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge 349 13th St., Oakland 510-839-[illegible]
Missouri Lounge 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2080
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Nomad Cafe 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland 510-595-5344
Oakland City Center 1100 12th St., Oakland 510-238-6636
Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland 510-763-1146
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[illegible] Lounge 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-285-[illegible]
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The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland 510-444-7474, TheNewParish.com
[illegible] 3 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette 925-284-7[illegible]
Pleasanton [illegible] 855 Main St., Pleasanton 925-846-8106
Quinn's Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland 510-536-2050
Radio 435 13th St., Oakland
[illegible] 3852 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette 925-284-4[illegible]
Rooster's Roadhouse 1700 Clement Ave., Alameda 510-337-9300
Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland 510-444-7224
Saddle Rack 42011 Boscell Rd., Fremont 510-979-0477
Shattuck Down Low 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-548-1159
[illegible] 2010 San [illegible] Valley Blvd., [illegible] San [illegible]
Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View 650-967-3000
Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda 510-522-1300
[illegible] 1540 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-977-1888
St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 510-848-5107
St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6830
Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-841-2082
Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-444-6174
Sweet Fingers 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro 510-553-[illegible]
Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100
[illegible] Bar & Grill 2048 Mt. Diablo St., Concord 925-685-[illegible]
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PICKS

The Memorials

Imposing a soul singer to a hard rock template could have been a risky decision had the singer not been **Viveca Hawkins**, and the band not been **Thomas Pridgen**'s gutsy new power trio **The Memorials**. In this case, it definitely worked. Pridgen and Hawkins actually have a long history together. They met more than a decade ago at **Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church**, where Pridgen played drums and Hawkins careened, under the wing of **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir**. Their friendship became a relationship, and a fruitful artistic one at that. The two both attended Berkeley High and **Berklee College of Music**, and parted ways when Pridgen left to tour with The Mars Volta, and reunited a couple years ago. Now their music is inimitable, best characterized by the heroic mac log of "Day Dreamer" and the funk undertones of "West Coast," an homage both to weed and to the band's hometown. Hawkins' vocals coat a serene glaze over any two-chord guitar riff. At **The New Parish** (579 18th St., Oakland) on Tuesday, Jan. 18, 9:30 p.m., $8-$10. TheNewParish.com — *Rachel Swan*

The Memorials

Joe Satriani

After a brief detour playing in the supergroup **Chickenfoot** alongside fellow Bay Area resident **Sammy Hagar**, deposed Van Halen bassist **Michael Anthony**, and **Red Hot Chili Peppers** drubasher **Chad Smith, Joe Satriani** has returned to his solo career as one master extraordinaire. Given that the title of his fourteenth studio album is *Black Swans and Wormhole Wizards*, it's no surprise that Satch went the proggy route to get in touch with his inner guitar god. Songs like the glistening "Wind in the Trees" and epic closer "God Is Crying," show that this 54-year-old instrumentalist has a creative well that still runs plenty deep. And while Chickenfoot never quite "rivaled **Led Zeppelin**" the way Hagar proclaimed it would, rest assured that Satriani still reigns as hard rock's premier instrumentalist. Legions of fretheads will surely turn out this Thursday, Jan. 13, at the **Fox Theater** (1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). 8 p.m. $39.50-$75. TheFoxOakland.com — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

Tom Russell, Jesse Winchester & Jimmy Webb

Tom Russell, Jesse Winchester, and **Jimmy Webb** cover the entire spectrum of Americana, from gritty Americana to hip pop tunes. Russell's songs of hard-working blue-collar folks mix rock, folk, and Tex-Mex into a compelling style all his own. Winchester's poetic folk tunes blend gospel, blues, and country into a laid-back style marked by his smooth vocals and understated guitar virtuosity. Webb has penned blockbusters for **Glen Campbell** ("Wichita Lineman") and **Richard Harris** ("MacArthur Park"). For the past decade he's been performing his own tunes and finally making a name for himself as a performer. They all appear at **Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on Sunday, Jan. 16. 8 p.m. $32.50-$34.50. TheFreight.org — *j. poet*

Tom Russell

Philharmonia Baroque

One of the nation's finest period instrument orchestras, **Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra** welcomes as soloist one of the world's finest countertenors as **David Daniels**. In addition to two works by Telemann, Daniels joins the orchestra under **Nicholas McGegan** to perform arias from Handel's *Agrippina* and *Rodelinda* and the Stabat mater of Vivaldi. Expect singing as virtuosic as it is moving on Saturday, Jan. 15, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 16, at 7:30 p.m., at **First Congregational Church** (2345 Channing Way, Berkeley). $30-$90. 415-392-4400 or Philharmonia.org. — *Jason Victor Serinus*

Center, 8 pm, $25-$55
Stew & Holt Happy Soul Show w/ Bend bands, Thee Parkside, 3-6 pm, free
Goodbye Blue w/ Avila Rio, The Better Males, & Culture Corpse, Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $7
Martha Wainwright, Queen of Madness Brick Room, 8 pm, $40-$45
Steve Woods Cafe du Nord, 8:30 pm, $10-$12
Grannies w/ VBB & U.S. Christmas, Great American Music Hall, 9 pm, $23
Melvoess S.F. w/ Most Dolls, Complexion, & Paper Bags, Thee Parkside, 9 pm, $7

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Public Country w/ Live Band Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $40
Saturday Night Soul Party w/ Dis Pork Planner, Paul Paul, & Phengren Oswald, Elbo Room, 10 pm, $6

SUNDAY 16

EAST BAY

All Ages

Fuzz, Blackstrap Molasses Marin Oust, 7 pm, donations accepted

Blues, Folk & Country

Jimmy's All-Star Super Sessions Jimmy hosts a different blues band every week, Pat's Restaurant, 5 pm, free
Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowout w/ Billy Branch, Sugar Blue, Carlos Del Junco, Rob & Henry Paquo, Yoshi's, 2 & 7 pm, $35, $30, $5 children's matinee

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Grace Woods open mic jazz, Eas Cafe, 12-2 pm, free
Happy New Jam w/ John Cave, Erik Jekabson, Jeff Marx, & Peter Barshay, Jazzschool, 7:30 pm, $5-$10
In the Name of Love: 9th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute w/ Oakland Linda Tillery & The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir led by Terrance Kelly, Scottish Rite Center, 7 pm, $15-$47
Rudy Salvini Big Band Alameda Elks Lodge Pathfinder, 5-8 pm, $10, couples $15

Rock & Pop

FK w/ Chi, Holiday Bowl, Out Of Spice, Brags, 924 Gilman, 5 pm
KRE Presents Ammers w/ Fever Queen, Emily's Army, & In the Attic, Stalkers on Telegraph, 6:30 pm, $8-$10

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C&C

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[illegible] Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 pm. free before 10:30 pm, $5 thereafter

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Ashkenaz. 8 pm, [illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Songwriter Sundays [illegible] artists perform in the lounge. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm-midnight. $5

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible], 6:30 pm, free

Classical & Opera

[illegible] on piano for Sunday champagne brunch, Top of the Mark. 10 am-1 pm. $59 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible] pm, $25-$40

[illegible] [illegible] pm, $5

Rock & Pop

10th Annual [illegible] [illegible] w/ [illegible] 8 pm, $22

[illegible] [illegible] 7:30 pm, $15-$18

[illegible] [illegible] 9 pm, $10

[illegible] [illegible] 8 pm, $15-$20

[illegible] [illegible] 1 pm, $40-$45

[illegible] [illegible] Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] 8 pm, $6

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible] 1 pm, $30

MONDAY 17

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Jam McGrath's Pub. 7:30 pm, free

[illegible] [illegible] 7:30 pm, [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 pm, $20

[illegible] [illegible] 9-11 pm, free

[illegible] [illegible] 8 pm, $6

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ Straggler & Skeleton Television, Starry Plough, 2:30 pm, [illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible] 7:30 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, [illegible]

[illegible] Le Colonial, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

TUESDAY 18

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Bar & Grill, 7:30-11 pm, free

[illegible] Peter's Restaurant, 7:30-9 pm, free

[illegible] [illegible] 8:30 pm, $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] featuring [illegible] from the [illegible] music school. Jupiter. 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] featuring [illegible], 10 pm, free

[illegible] [illegible], 9:30 pm, [illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $25

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[illegible] [illegible] 415-[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] St. 415-[illegible]

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Beach Chalet 1000 Great Highway 415-386-8439

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Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Columbus Ave., 415-474-0365

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[illegible] 609 Vallejo St. 415-982-[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Folsom St., 415-[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]

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[illegible] [illegible] St. 415-[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Green St. 415-[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] St. 415-[illegible]

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[illegible] [illegible] Leavenworth St., 415-[illegible]

DNA Lounge 375 11th St. 415-626-1409

[illegible] [illegible] 3rd St., 415-[illegible]

The Eagle Tavern 398 12th St., 415-626-0880

Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074

[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]

El Rio 3158 Mission St. 415-282-3325

[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]

[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Geary St. 415-[illegible]

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[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Mission St. 415-[illegible]

[illegible] Lounge 500 Divisadero St. 415-241-[illegible]

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Pier 23 The Embarcadero, 415-[illegible]

The Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695

Retox Lounge 628 20th St., 415-[illegible]

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[illegible] [illegible] Clement St., 415-[illegible]

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San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St. 415-503-6275

Skip's Tavern 453 Cortland Ave 415-285-3458

Skylark 3089 16th St., 415-621-9294

Slim's 333 11th St. 415-522-0333

[illegible] 550 Barneveld Ave 415-[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]

[illegible] Gallery [illegible] St. 415-[illegible]

Supperclub 657 Harrison St., 415-348-0900

[illegible] 561 Geary St. 415-[illegible]

Temple 540 Howard St.

Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-252-1330

Top of the Mark 1 Nob Hill, 999 California St. 415-616-6916

Tunnel Top 601 Bush St. 415-986-8900

[illegible] Lounge 443 Broadway St., 415-[illegible]

The Warfield 982 Market St. 415-775-7722

[illegible] Lounge [illegible] St. 415-[illegible]

Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St. 415-655-5600

Jonas Night w/ **Hive Mind** w/ Hive Mind, Acre Hoiked & Suzanne Neuer. Amnesia, 9 pm, $6

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz Jam hosted by Ray Harvey. Bird's Tavern, 8-11:00 pm, free
Marty Eggers Rev 23, 8:30 pm, free
Tuesday Night Odd/ Stompy Jones plays retro jazz, plus a swing dance lesson. Verdi Club, 9 pm, $10-$12

Rock & Pop

Billiance Still Moyo Towers, Songs For Storms, Thee Parkside, 9 pm
Grandtown w/ Ezra Lenore & Town Fleet. Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $8
Lounge Late Night Live w/ [illegible], Yoshi's San Francisco, 9 pm, $7
The Moondoggies w/ Quiet Life. The Independent, 8 pm, $12
The [illegible] w/ Sun Cats & Cave County. Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $6
Robert Residency @ Slim's w/ **Entrance (Guy Blakeslee Loser)** Slim's, 9 pm, $5

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Snoop Dogg The Fillmore, 8 pm, $37.50

Ju oinegrA plays the Uptown on 1/14.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Martinez [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 9 pm, $10

WEDNESDAY 19

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Whiskey Brothers old-time and bluegrass, Albatross Pub, 8 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Live Jazz Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Big Fish! local music showcase presented by Pirate Cat Radio. This week: 11orange, ABC, Club Crawford, & Bass Point, The Uptown, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible], Voodoo, Babylon Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77
Ben Marcato and the Mondo Combo Top of the Mark, 7:30 (1:30 pm), $8
Gaucho w/ The Mitch Marcus Sextet, Amnesia, 8 pm, free
Roy Hargrove Quintet Yoshi's San Francisco, Jan. 19-22, 8 & 10 pm, $16, $30, $26

Rock & Pop

White Mohen w/ Greg Ashley, Outline, & [illegible] Caravan, Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $7
Young Gunz w/ Gangflare, Melted Toys, & Speculator, Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 pm, $12
Zoe Keating w/ Ira & Tzotzo, The Rewind, 8 pm, 11, $17

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Freddy [illegible] and la Razón Puerto Pu chamama, 8 pm, $12
Lounge: [illegible], Townhouse w/ **Lisa Silva & Bay de Brazil** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $7

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St. Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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SAT. JAN 15TH
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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 13

EAST BAY

Acrobeing Night DJ and DJ Joe C. spin hip-hop, R&B, Reggaeton & Top 40. White Horse Inn. 9 p.m. $3 students free w/ ID

Damn Gina w/ DJs Kool Karlo & Chris Fox. Shattuck Down Low. 9 p.m. free

Motown Thursdays Radio. 10 p.m. free

DJ Jerry Ross spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B, & more. Easy Lounge. 10 p.m. free

DJ Trish spinning lounge. Last Weekend Lounge. 5 p.m. free

Flight Time spinning DJ Don Guapo. The Layover. 10 p.m. free

Ho Jo's w/ DJs Fine China & Gavin Panic. The Missouri Lounge. 10 p.m. free

Rewind DJ Zegh B host MC Aamon spinning hip-hop, reggae, & soul. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. free

Salsa-Sol w/ DJs Ushua & Orchids Allen. Jupiter. 8 p.m. free

Thirsty Thursdays w/ DJs Vickey Slash & Franky Fresh spin '80s, hip-hop, R&B, old-school. Shattuck Down Low. 9 p.m. free

Yoruba Groove Sessions w/ DJs Carlos Mena and Cool, Oaxa and Bac. 9 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Afrolicious w/ DJs Sabo, Pleasuremaker, Senor Oz, & guests spinning Afro-tropical-samba-funk. Elbo Room. 10 p.m. $8

Club Internationale Bollywood, bangra, Filipino [illegible], Cambodian rock, & more. The Knockout. 10 p.m. free

Deep Roots DJ Vinyard & special guests spin funk, soul, boogie, & more. Tunnel Top. 10 p.m. free

Popscene w/ The Woodsies w/ The Magician, Cosman, DJs Aaron & Omar. Rickshaw Stop. 9 p.m. $15

Toppa Top Thursdays w/ Jah Warrior Shelter Soft, Jah Yzer, Irie Dole, & I-Vier spinning reggae. Club Six. 9 p.m. $5, free 9-10 w/ RSVP

FRIDAY 14

EAST BAY

Ora Jah w/ DJs Eddy Roots and His Friends spinning bass ops and slow jams. The Missouri Lounge. 10 p.m. free

Club 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music. Club 21. 8 p.m. $8-$15

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at **EastBayExpress.com** or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

DJ WTNF's Sam Steel Soul Review The Layover. 10 p.m. free

Happy Roots w/ DJ Golden Gunn spinning punk, rock, indie, & more rock. The Missouri Lounge. 8 & 11 p.m. free

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Elitese spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, reggaeton, Spanish pop, & house. [illegible] and Bac. 9 p.m. $8-$15

Mondala weekly in-house DJ [illegible] Music. 7 p.m. free

Old School Night featuring DJ Roots spinning reggae, hip-hop, & R&B. Union. 9 p.m.

Oasis Night with DJ Bacardi spinning reggae, soca, salsa, & R&B. Island Paradise Club. 10 p.m. ladies free before 11:30 p.m.

"Reggae Fridays" DJ [illegible] gie & Short Kut spin dancehall, reggae, & R&B. New Karibbean City. 6:30 p.m./10:30 p.m. $5 to $10

Sultry Fridays DJ Lush & Fat Rob spin R&B & soul. Kimball's Carnival. 9 p.m. $5

Union Beat Fridays w/ DJ [illegible] spinning afrobeat, soca, samba, salsa, merengue, dancehall reggae, bhangra, Roots music, & more. Conga Lounge. 10 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

Fo' Sho! Fridays DJs Lobster & Kung Fu Chris spin rare grooves, soul, hip-hop, funk, & international flavors, plus live hip-hop w/ [illegible]. Amnesia Lounge. 9 p.m. $5 after 10 p.m.

Glambition [illegible] DJs. The Endup. 11 p.m. $25, free before midnight

Indy Tropi w/ DJ Barry White. Amnesia. 10 p.m.

Loose Roots w/ DJ Tom Thump and [illegible]. Make-Out Room. 11 p.m. $5

Night of DJs Union w/ DJ Palme [illegible] & Basi Lat spinning [illegible] rock 'n' roll & [illegible] oldies. The Knockout. 10 p.m. $3

Rickshaw Thug featuring DJ [illegible], Vinyl Archaeologist. Club Six. 10 p.m. $5

Gonzalez SF [illegible] 9 p.m. $8

Trash "Go Night" w/ DJs Vinnie Esparza, [illegible] Cause & Picture. Elbo Room. 10 p.m. $5

SATURDAY 15

EAST BAY

All Productions & Hookbridge DJs spinning R&B & hip-hop. Fevas. 10 p.m. free

Club Maxwell's DJs Ivory Root & Soul Profess spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae, & hip-hop. Maxwell's Lounge. 9 p.m. $20

Hella Gay w/ DJs Gilber [illegible] & rotating guests. The Uptown. 9 p.m. $7

Jammin Saturdays Club 1220. 9 p.m. $8

Magic Silk Crates [illegible] & [illegible] host genre-surfing extravaganza. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 8 p.m. free

Pop Tonight 101 DJs spin pop hits from the Shangri-las to Michael Jackson. Ruby Room. 10 p.m. free

Saucee Saturdays DJ Jazze & [illegible] spin soul, hip-hop, R&B, salsa, reggaeton, & more. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. $10

SAN FRANCISCO

DJ Superflexx w/ DJs El Kool Kyle & Roger Mas spinning Dancehall, reggaeton, salsa, sonideros, and world dance-pop. Make-Out Room. 10 p.m. $5

Get Your Bhangra w/ J Boogie. Rickshaw Stop. 9 p.m. $12

Bootleg Bhangra Dance Party w/ Dhoom Dance Troupe & DJ Jimmy Love, plus bhangra dance lesson w/ Vicki Mo at 8:30 p.m. Amnesia. Stop. 9 p.m. $10-$15

Para Gente Opening Party featuring DJs Fany D, Fredo Eddy, The Dominican DJ & more spinning salsa, merengue, bachata, reggae, cumbia, & Latin top 40. 1015 Folsom Nightclub. 10 p.m.

Tainu Lounge DJs spinning [illegible] hip-hop, urban top 40, & funky [illegible] Bac. 10 p.m. $20

SUNDAY 16

EAST BAY

Beats by Woodwin beats, bass, & more. Easy Lounge. 6 p.m. free

Fresh Steps w/ DJ Aunt Sea & rotating DJs performers. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. free

Kay & Roots Bhangra spinning DJ Tim [illegible]. The Layover. 2 p.m. free

Soul Sanctuary Dance Community dance. SoulSanctuaryDance.com. Ashkenaz. 11 am-2 p.m. $5-$15, free for newcomers or children 12 & under

Larkin Fox's Hot Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady & roots reggae. The Henry Ering Club. 7 p.m. free

MONDAY 17

EAST BAY

DJ Aage spinning dub, ska, & soul. Easy Lounge. 9 p.m. free

Mystery Night guest DJs spin hip-hop, wave & electro. Ruby Room. 10 p.m. free

Underground Mishapol spinning '60s & '70s music. Radio. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

TUESDAY 18

EAST BAY

DJ Joe Oxbor spinning African & Latin funk. Easy Lounge. 8 p.m. free

DJ Whisty spinning punk. Last Weekend Lounge. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Soul Fyah Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 p.m.

Stay Punk! w/ DJ Beatrom spinning indie punk, hardcore, & metal. The Missouri Lounge. 10 p.m. free

WEDNESDAY 19

EAST BAY

Afternoon Boogie w/ DJ Kitty spinning disco, funk, & more. Kitty's. 6 p.m. free

Bossa Roots Ashkenaz. 8:30 p.m. $8-$12

The Jump Off: Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop. Club 21. 9 p.m. $8-$15

Percussion Latin cowboy night w/ host Victoria Bench and Bar. 7 p.m. $8-$10

Slippery Wet Wednesdays poetry, open mic, and live DJ Fever. 10 p.m. free

Boogie Wednesdays DJ Sorrow & rotating guests spin salsa, samba, merengue, reggaeton, & more plus salsa bosso lessons. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 8 p.m. free

PICK

Evolve

Originally from Boston, Innate DJ **Soul Luciani** learned his craft in New York, where he frequented — and eventually presided — several legendary underground parties. Force of personality and devotion to the scene may have set his career in motion, but he ultimately became more of a craftsman. He's well-practiced in the art of splicing records, but he also adheres to a whole slew of philosophical credos, mostly having to do with cultural connectedness. Once he resettled in Oakland, Luciani tried to build a house scene from scratch in what's traditionally been fallow terrain. He now helms the **Boogie Brunch at Levende East** and the fabulous monthly **Evolve** party at **Era Art Bar** (19 Grand Ave., Oakland). Also featuring DJs **David Harness** and **Bakkem Jihad**, the event brings East-Coast style partying to Uptown nightlife. Evolve happens Friday, Jan. 14, at 9 p.m. $10. OaklandEra.com — *Rachel Swan*

LUKA'S
TAPROOM & LOUNGE
VOTED BEST PLACE TO DANCE & BEST PICK UP BAR
EAST BAY EXPRESS

WED 9PM free — THE JET SET — DJ SANTERO & DJ ZITA new weekly international dance party featuring the latest grooves from Africa, Asia, the Americas & beyond

THUR 10PM free — JUNGLE BOOGIE — DJ POIZEN, KOOL KYLE & UNCLE JOE hip hop, soul & your requests!

FRI 10PM $5 — MIGHTY IRIE — DJs ROCKER-T, SMOKE-ONE & IRIE DOLE reggae, hip hop & dancehall

SAT 10PM $10 — SMOOVE SATURDAYS — DJ JAMO & MARCELLA aka LADY LO

SUN 9PM — FRESH STEPS every 2nd Sunday — LIVE LOCAL EMCEES PERFORM — your host DJ Adidos spinning soulful

MON 9PM free — THREE DAY WEEKEND — DJs OMOSES & MOROCCO SLIM vinyl hip hop & soul classics

TUES 10PM free — THE NEW SOUL FYAH — RESIDENT DJ SEBO & FUZE SAKE-ONE & DJ SECTOR

New Late Night Happy Hour!!!
Sunday - Thursday 10pm to 12am
$5 Margaritas
$3 Beer Specials
Late night food menu til midnight

LUKA'S TAPROOM & LOUNGE
2221 BROADWAY @ W GRAND, OAKLAND
WWW.LUKASOAKLAND.COM

Shattuck Down Low

WED. 12TH: ORQUESTRA ELEFANTE live salsa & dance lessons

THURS. 13TH: "DAMN GINA" DJ'S KOOL KARLO & CHRIS FOX electro rock, disco, heavy bass

FRI. 14TH: THE HUNDRED DAYS LIGHT BRIDGES, MANATEE rock, indie, heavy soul

SUN. 16TH: "KING OF KINGS" DJS SMOKE ONE & COOP D'VILLE roots reggae dancehall

WED. 19TH: RUMBACHE live salsa & dance lessons

TUESDAYS: ROCKSTAR KARAOKE! 8PM SIGN UPS

COMING UP:
NON STOP BHANGRA PRESENTS: FAMILY VIBES JAN 29TH
KRS-ONE FEB 10TH

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LEGAL NOTICES

[illegible]

Trustee Sale No. [illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT DATED [illegible]. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. [illegible]

[illegible]

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 443689CA Loan No. 3000827370 Title Order No. 477486 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 07-28-2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 01-26-2011 at 12:30 PM, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 08-17-2006, Book , Page , Instrument 2006313660 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California, executed by: TERRY LINDSEY, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, as Trustor, WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA Legal Description: PARCEL ONE: CONDOMINIUM UNIT 77 OF LOT 10 OF TRACT MAP 7661 FILED SEPTEMBER 25, 2002, IN BOOK 267 OF MAPS, PAGES 1 THROUGH 20 INCLUSIVE, AND AS AMENDED BY CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION RECORDED JULY 8, 2004, SERIES NO. 2004-[illegible] OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, AS SUCH UNIT IS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN ("PLAN") ATTACHED AS AN EXHIBIT TO THE BAY STREET CONDOMINIUMS COMMONLY KNOWN AS "BAY STREET ONE" ENABLING DECLARATION ESTABLISHING A PLAN FOR CONDOMINIUM OWNERSHIP ("DECLARATION"), RECORDED SEPTEMBER 14, 2005, SERIES NO. 2005-394350 AND AS SUPPLEMENTED BY A DECLARATION OF ANNEXATION RECORDED DECEMBER 23, 2005 SERIES NO. 2005-546634 AND AS AMENDED BY FIRST AMENDMENT RECORDED JANUARY 13, 2006, SERIES NO. 2006-[illegible], OFFICIAL RECORDS, AND ANY FURTHER AMENDMENTS AND/OR FURTHER ANNEXATIONS RECORDED PURSUANT THERETO. PARCEL TWO: AN UNDIVIDED 1/48TH INTEREST AS TENANT IN COMMON IN AND TO THE UNDIVIDED INTEREST COMMON AREA LYING WITHIN SAID LOT 10 OF TRACT MAP 7661, AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN AND DEFINED IN THE DECLARATION. EXCEPTING AND RESERVING THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING: A) ALL CONDOMINIUM UNITS SHOWN ON THE PLAN AND DESCRIBED IN THE DECLARATION. B) EXCLUSIVE USE COMMON AREAS FOR POSSESSION, USE AND ENJOYMENT OF THOSE AREAS DESIGNATED ON THE PLAN AND DEFINED IN THE DECLARATION. C) NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENTS FOR USE, ENJOYMENT, INGRESS, EGRESS AND SUPPORT IN AND TO THE COMMON AREA AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN AND DESCRIBED IN THE DECLARATION. D) ALL EASEMENTS AS DEFINED IN THE DECLARATION. E) ASSOCIATION COMMON AREA AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN AND DEFINED IN THE DECLARATION. F) EXCEPTING THEREFROM ALL MINERALS AND ALL MINERAL RIGHTS OF EVERY KIND AND CHARACTER NOW KNOWN TO EXIST OR HEREAFTER DISCOVERED, UNDERLYING THE PROPERTY, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITING THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING OIL AND GAS AND RIGHTS THERETO, TOGETHER WITH THE SOLE, EXCLUSIVE AND PERPETUAL RIGHT TO EXPLORE FOR, REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF SAID MINERALS BY ANY MEANS OR METHODS SUITABLE TO GRANTOR, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, BUT WITHOUT ENTERING UPON OR USING THE SURFACE OF THE PROPERTY, AND IN SUCH MANNER AS NOT TO DAMAGE THE SURFACE OF THE PROPERTY OR TO INTERFERE WITH THE USE THEREOF BY GRANTEE, ITS SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS, PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT GRANTOR, ITS SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS, WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION OF GRANTEE, ITS SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS, SHALL NOT CONDUCT ANY MINING ACTIVITIES OF WHATSOEVER NATURE ABOVE A PLANE [illegible] BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE PROPERTY, AS RESERVED BY UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, A DELAWARE CORPORATION, FORMERLY KNOWN AS SOUTHERN PACIFIC TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, A DELAWARE CORPORATION, IN THE QUITCLAIM DEED RECORDED DECEMBER 31, 2001 SERIES NO. [illegible] OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY. PARCEL THREE: NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENTS FOR USE, ENJOYMENT, INGRESS, EGRESS AND SUPPORT IN AND TO THE COMMON AREA AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN AND DESCRIBED IN THE DECLARATION, FOR THE BENEFIT OF PARCEL ONE HEREINABOVE. PARCEL FOUR: EXCLUSIVE USE EASEMENTS AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN AND DESCRIBED IN THE DECLARATION APPURTENANT TO PARCEL ONE HEREINABOVE, FOR THE POSSESSION, USE AND ENJOYMENT OF (A) DECK D-77, (B) BALCONY: NONE (C) PARKING P-131 AND P-137. PARCEL FIVE: EASEMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL WIRES, SEWER LINES AND OTHER PIPES AND UTILITIES EQUIPMENT, ELEVATOR AND STAIRWAY LOBBY PURPOSES, ON, OVER, ACROSS AND THROUGH PORTIONS OF LOTS [illegible] 7, 9 AND 13 OF TRACT MAP 7661, IN THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AS PER SAID DESCRIBED TRACT MAP 7661, RECORDED SEPTEMBER 25, 2002, IN BOOK 267 OF MAPS, PAGES 1 THROUGH 20 IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY AND AS DESCRIBED IN THAT CERTAIN DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS AND AMENDMENT OF DECLARATION OF RECIPROCAL EASEMENTS (SERIES NO. 2002-[illegible]) RECORDED OCTOBER 15, 2002 AS SERIES NO. 2002-465643 AND AS AMENDED AND RESTATED BY INSTRUMENT RECORDED JANUARY 27, 2006, SERIES NO. 2006-29499, OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY FIRST AMENDMENT RECORDED JUNE 8, 2006, SERIES NO. 2006-[illegible] OFFICIAL RECORDS. PARCEL SIX: NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENTS FOR STORM DRAIN, SANITARY SEWER AND OTHER USES AND PURPOSES, ON, OVER, ACROSS AND THROUGH PORTIONS OF TRACT MAP 7661, RECORDED SEPTEMBER 25, 2002, IN BOOK 267 OF MAPS, PAGES 1 THROUGH 20 IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATED THEREON AS "PRIVATE STORM DRAIN EASEMENT RESERVATION" AND "PRIVATE SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT RESERVATION" AND AS DESCRIBED IN THAT CERTAIN DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS AND AMENDMENT OF DECLARATION OF RECIPROCAL EASEMENTS (SERIES NO. 2002-[illegible]) RECORDED OCTOBER 15, 2002 AS SERIES NO. 2002-465643 AND AS AMENDED AND RESTATED BY INSTRUMENT RECORDED JANUARY 27, 2006, SERIES NO. 2006-29499 OFFICIAL RECORDS, AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY FIRST AMENDMENT RECORDED JUNE 8, 2006, SERIES NO. 2006-222467 OFFICIAL RECORDS. PARCEL SEVEN: NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENTS FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS AND OTHER USES AND PURPOSES OVER, ACROSS AND THROUGH PORTIONS OF TRACT MAP 7661, RECORDED SEPTEMBER 25, 2002, IN BOOK 267 OF MAPS, PAGES 1 THROUGH 20 IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATED THEREON AS "PRIVATE STREET" ("CHRISTIE STREET", "BAY STREET", "ENTRY STREET TO BE NAMED SUBJECT TO MEMORIALIZATION PROCESS") AND "PRIVATE INGRESS, EGRESS EASEMENT RESERVATION" AND AS DESCRIBED IN THAT CERTAIN DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS AND AMENDMENT OF DECLARATION OF RECIPROCAL EASEMENT (SERIES NO. 2002-429891) RECORDED OCTOBER 15, 2002 AS SERIES NO. 2002-465643 AND AS AMENDED AND RESTATED BY INSTRUMENT RECORDED JANUARY 27, 2006, SERIES NO. 2006-29499, OFFICIAL RECORDS, AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY FIRST AMENDMENT RECORDED JUNE 8, 2006, SERIES NO. 2006-222467 OFFICIAL RECORDS. PARCEL EIGHT: A NON-EXCLUSIVE EMERGENCY EXITING EASEMENT PURSUANT TO THAT CERTAIN INSTRUMENT ENTITLED "EASEMENT AGREEMENT" BY AND BETWEEN IKEA PROPERTY, INC., A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, AND THE EMERYVILLE SOUTH BAYFRONT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT PARTNERSHIP, FOR THE TERMS AND UPON THE TERMS, COVENANTS AND CONDITIONS THEREIN PROVIDED, DATED AUGUST 4, 2001 AND RECORDED MAY 15, 2002, SERIES NO. 2002-216857 OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY. PARCEL NINE: A NON-EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO TRANSFORMERS EASEMENT PURSUANT TO THAT CERTAIN INSTRUMENT ENTITLED "EASEMENT AGREEMENT" BY AND BETWEEN IKEA PROPERTY, INC., A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, AND THE EMERYVILLE SOUTH BAYFRONT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT PARTNERSHIP, FOR THE TERMS AND UPON THE TERMS, COVENANTS AND CONDITIONS THEREIN PROVIDED, DATED AUGUST 4, 2001 AND RECORDED MAY 15, 2002, SERIES NO. 2002-216857 OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $491,806.17 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 5714 BRUNSWIG LN EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 APN Number: 49-1534-[illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". DECLARATION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE SECTION 2923.54 Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 2923.54 the undersigned loan servicer declares as follows: [1] It has obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date the notice of sale is filed; and [2] The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to Section 2923.52 or Section 2923.55. DATE: 12-30-2010 CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY, as Trustee (714) 730-2727 or www.fidelityasap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com Deborah Brignac, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. DEBORAH BRIGNAC, VICE PRESIDENT 9200 OAKDALE AVE MAILSTOP N110612 CHATSWORTH, CA 91311 ASAP# [illegible] 01/05/2011, 01/12/2011, 01/19/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS # CA-10-[illegible] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 7/20/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): LONNIE IAN MEDINA ARAYA, AN UNMARRIED MAN Recorded: 8/3/2007 as Instrument No. 2007288913 in book , page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California; Date of Sale: 2/7/2011 at 12:30 PM Place of Sale: At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $436,359.63 The purported property address is: 38 GLASHAUS LOOP EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 Assessor's Parcel No. 049-1504-055 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, please refer to the referenced legal description for property location. In the event no common address or common designation of the property is provided herein directions to the location of the property may be obtained within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale by sending a written request to Bank of America 475 Crosspoint Parkway Getzville NY 14068 Pursuant to California Civil Code 2923.54 the undersigned, on behalf of the beneficiary, loan servicer or authorized agent, declares as follows: [1] The mortgage loan servicer has obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date the notice of sale is filed; [2] The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to Section 2923.52. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's Attorney. Date: Quality Loan Service Corp. 2141 5th Avenue San Diego, CA 92101 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 714-730-2727 or Login to: www.fidelityasap.com Reinstatement Line: 619-645-7711 Quality Loan Service, Corp. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. THIS NOTICE IS SENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING A DEBT. THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDER AND OWNER OF THE NOTE. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY OR PROVIDED TO THIS FIRM OR THE CREDITOR WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. ASAP# [illegible] 1/12/2011, 01/19/2011, 01/26/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. 09-01177-US-CA YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 06/08/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, (cashier's check(s) must be made payable to National Default Servicing Corporation), drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made in an "as is" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: ESTHER C. SPRIGGS, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN Duly Appointed Trustee: NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING CORPORATION Recorded 06/16/2006 as Instrument No. 2006235291 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California. Date of Sale: 01/19/2011 at 12:30 P.M. Place of Sale: At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $412,249.53 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 5876-5876 1/2 BEAUDRY STREET, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 A.P.N.: 049-1331-016-03 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The undersigned mortgagee, beneficiary or authorized agent for the mortgagee or beneficiary pursuant to California Civil Code 2923.5(b) declares that the mortgagee, beneficiary or the mortgagee's or beneficiary's authorized agent has either contacted the borrower or tried with due diligence to contact the borrower as required by California Civil Code 2923.5. Regarding the property that is the subject of this Notice of Sale, the "mortgage loan servicer" as defined in California Civil Code Section 2923.53 (k)(3), declares that it has obtained from the Commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to California Civil Code Section 2923.53 and that the exemption is current and valid on the date this Notice of Sale is recorded. The timeframe for giving a Notice of Sale specified in Subdivision (a) Section 2923.52 does not apply to this Notice of Sale pursuant to California Civil Code Sections 2923.52 or 2923.55. Date: 12/29/2010 NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING CORPORATION 7720 N. 16th Street, Suite 300 Phoenix, AZ 85020 phone 602-264-6101 Sales Line 714-730-2727; Sales Website: www.ndscorp.com/sales Jas Chaiton, TRUSTEE SALES REPRESENTATIVE ASAP# 3857545 12/29/2010, 01/05/2011, 01/12/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 10-08986-3 CA Loan No. 0075425159 Title Order No. 100584730-CA-MSI APN 049-1538-087-00 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED May 11, 2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On January 18, 2011 at 12:30 PM, at the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA, Fidelity Title Insurance Company as the duly appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on May 31, 2007 as Instrument No. 2007210616 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, CA, executed by: ANTHONY GRANSANTI, A SINGLE PERSON, as Trustor, in favor of Wells Fargo Bank, NA as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1-440 CHRISTIE AVENUE #5416, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining unpaid balance of the obligations secured by and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust (together with any modifications thereto). The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $344,938.61 (Estimated), provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. DATE: December 29, 2010 Fidelity National Title Insurance Company, Trustee 135 Main St. Ste. 1900, San Francisco, CA 94105 415-247-2450 By: Tamara Bense, Authorized Signature The undersigned mortgagee, beneficiary or authorized agent for the mortgagee or beneficiary pursuant to California Civil Code 2923.5(b) declares that the mortgagee, beneficiary or the mortgagee's or beneficiary's authorized agent has obtained an exemption from the state regulator that is current and valid and the additional 90-day period does not apply. This loan servicer has implemented a comprehensive loan modification program that meets the requirements of civil code section California Civil Code 2923.53 Fidelity National Title Insurance Company, as Agent for the mortgagee, beneficiary as defined under California Civil Code section 2923.53 (k)(3) By: Tamara Bense, Authorized Signature SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.fidelityasap.com AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 714-259-7850 ASAP# 3861736 12/29/2010, 01/05/2011, 01/12/2011

SAVAGE LOVE

FANTASIES OF SUPERHEROINES

Plus more ill-fated threesomes.

By Dan Savage

My boyfriend and I have had a wonderful relationship for six years. We have had "girlfriends" in the past who were involved with both of us simultaneously. But he recently met a girl and they instantly clicked. They have been on a few dates since — nothing physical yet — and she seems completely infatuated with him. She is aware that he lives with me and we are together, but I've yet to meet her. I am fine with them dating, but I have a few questions:

1. My guy and I share everything. He's shown me her texts and told me about her life. We both feel slightly uncomfortable with me knowing such personal things about her without meeting her, but we don't want to break the intensely open communication we have earned with each other. How much am I entitled to know about her/them, and how can he tell me about her without being disrespectful?

2. Can I meet her? If so, under what circumstances?

3. Can this end well for her? Every girl we've dated has ended up hurt because our relationship with each other is always more important than she is. I worry this girl will be devastated when he doesn't leave me for her. Should he squelch all the romance now? She's had a rough few years, and he doesn't want to add to her problems. On the other hand, he's the first person she has been able to connect with in a long time. And should he even consider bringing her into our relationship? Things always end badly for the other girl, and I don't want to hurt her.

Curious And Respectful

1. Your guy needs to tell this girl that he shares absofuckinlutely everything with you. He needs to tell her that he's in a successful open relationship — successful for you two, anyway — and that he has no intention of limiting the "intensely open communication" that has made your relationship work. She needs to know that you're hearing about their dates and the details of her life, reading every text, etc.

2. Sure, you can meet her — you absofuckinlutely should meet her as soon as possible. How about under coffee circumstances? Or drinks circumstances? Or dinner circumstances?

3. Um... gee. If every girl you two have ever "dated" has wound up hurt, CAR, then a reasonable person might conclude that YOU'RE DOING THIS OPEN RELATIONSHIP SHIT ALL WRONG. Your "wonderful" open relationship may be working for you and it may be working for him, but if it's not working for them, CAR, then it's not working.

Refrain from inviting anyone else into your "wonderful" relationship until you get a handle on what's so fucking wonderful about it for your thirds. If you can't come up with anything — if it's really not anything you're doing wrong — then you should have a few laminated cards made that read, "He'll never leave me for you, his relationship with me will ALWAYS be more important than his relationship with you, and this will most likely end in tears for you. Enjoy the ride."

Finally, CAR, if this woman is reeling from a rough few years and she can't handle more heartache right now and everyone you've ever messed around with has gotten hurt and you elect to "bring her into your relationship" despite my advice, then at least have the decency to stop pretending that you give a shit about the people you mess around with. Fuck her, fuck her over, move on — but don't stand there wringing your hands, pretending that you're just heartsick about the damage you two are doing to people.

My twenty-year-old brother is gay. My family has known for a few years. He came out to my mom — she found his Facebook profile — he hasn't come out to anyone else in the family, but we all found out anyway. I've voiced my acceptance of homosexuality while he is around, but he hasn't come out. Should I pull him aside and tell him that the family is okay with him?

His Straight Big Brother

If you wanted to pull your brother aside to tell him the same shit every homo on earth has heard ten million times by age twenty — "I love you, bro, but Jesus said that every time two dudes get it on, an angel gets an anal fissure" — I would advise you to keep your mouth shut. But since you're supportive, and mom already knows, and it's on his freakin' Facebook page, pull the little coward aside. Tell him everybody knows, everybody loves him, but everybody is sick of having to pretend that they don't know what they damn well do.

I'm a hetero guy in my late twenties. I've been dating a woman I am crazy about for two months. We waited a little while to have sex, but once we finally did, during the ensuing pillow talk she probed my general fantasies and I dropped that I sometimes fantasize about superheroines. Despite the fact that these fantasies are otherwise very vanilla, she freaked out and said it reflects some kind of deep psychological problems and fundamental immaturity.

Dan, these women are drawn to appeal to what the inner pubescent boy in every het guy wants! Can you weigh in on whether there's something unhealthy about a man fantasizing about Supergirl and Zatanna?

Superheroines Unconsciously Permeate Erotic Reveries

There's nothing unhealthy about a grown man fantasizing about superheroines, SUPER, but there is something deeply disturbing about a grown man using the present tense the way you did in your letter. You wrote "a woman I am crazy about" when what you clearly should have said was "a woman I was crazy about."

She drew you out after sex and encouraged you to open up to her about your sexual fantasies, and then she stomped on you like that? That was an asshole move on her part, borderline emotionally/sexually abusive, and I hope you arranged to have the door hit her in the ass on her way out of your apartment. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at thestranger.com/savage.

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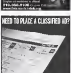

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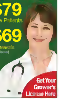

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